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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Receives U.S. Documents on Lockerbie

NC2611051391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, said that he was handed a number of documents concerning the U.S. accusations that two Libyan nationals caused the explosion of an American civilian airliner in 1988. He was given the documents at his meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Robert Pelletreau.

In a statement he made today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that he will meet later today with Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee (prime minister) in Libyan Jamahiriyah, to discuss the issue.

He added that he handed Abdelhamid Ammar, Tunisia's ambassador to Egypt and its permanent envoy to the Arab League, a message to Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya on the issue of the Arab League center in Tunis. He added that contacts on this issue are continuing.

GCC Economic, Foreign Committees Meet in Kuwait

Finance Ministers Meet 24 Nov

NC2411114391 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] The Economic and Financial Cooperation Committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] started its 30th meeting this morning at the Holiday Inn. The GCC countries' ministers of economy and finance and GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah attended the session.

'Abdallah Bin-Salih al-Mana', minister of transportation and acting minister of economy and trade in fraternal Qatar, delivered the opening speech. Qatar is the chairman of the current session. He highlighted the importance of this meeting, saying that it takes place under very sensitive circumstances which require us to join efforts and set the appropriate programs and methods to realize the goals of our leaders and people. These goals include strengthening our joint economic action and stressing our countries' status as promising economic powers.

Finance Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan then delivered a speech in which he thanked the GCC leaders for their role in supporting Kuwait's rights. He said their stands shall remain immortal in the hearts of Kuwaitis as long as they live. He also thanked the fraternal countries who stood alongside Kuwait until the aggression was defeated and rights were restored to their owners.

Al-Ridan said international and regional changes have had an effect on Gulf action, which needs to evolve new principles and work mechanisms that take into mind the changes in the world and which elevate the GCC countries into a united and solid economic entity to confront the various economic blocs. He mentioned the need to evaluate the achievements realized during the past ten years.

After his speech, the first session of the conference began.

Finance Talks End; Foreign Ministers Arrive

LD2511151891 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1004 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Nov (KUNA)—The ministers of finance and economy of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] concluded the meetings of their 30th session here at noon today. They did not issue any communique on their meeting, however, since they will be joining the GCC foreign ministers who will begin their discussions here this afternoon.

The foreign ministers of the GCC member countries—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates—arrived in Kuwait this morning to attend the meeting, at which the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the GCC heads of state scheduled to be held here next month will be discussed.

Foreign Ministers End First Session

LD2511204391 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1916 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 25 Nov (KUNA)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers this evening ended their first meeting held here at the Holiday Inn hotel.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, opened the meeting. In his speech he said that all the things with which the Gulf region is faced confirms the need for a serious move by the states of the region toward formulating new starting points of security and stability so as to achieve the necessary guarantees for security and peace in the region.

He added that the mixing of Gulf blood on Kuwaiti territory during the war to liberate the country from the aggressors' desecration calls for more developed models of joint cooperation in the military field. [passage omitted] He expressed his appreciation for the constructive role assumed by the United States in partnership with the Soviet Union aimed at paving the way to reaching a solution to the Middle East problem. [passage omitted]

The GCC foreign ministers and the ministers of finance and economy concluded a joint meeting this afternoon. [passage omitted]

GCC's 12th Summit Slated 23-25 Dec in Kuwait

LD1411102391 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0733 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 14 Nov (KUNA)—'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], said in an interview published here

today that the 12th summit should be convened on a new basis and in a new atmosphere.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-FAJR AL-JADID, the GCC secretary general said that what took place should not happen again and the mechanisms and political climate in which these events took place should not return.

Kuwait will host the 12th GCC summit between 23 and 25 December. [passage omitted]

Unified Army Plan To Be Discussed

JN1911111591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Muscat, 19 Nov (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that the higher council of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] will discuss a plan to form a unified Gulf army at its forthcoming session in Kuwait on 23 December.

In a statement to the Bahraini AL-AYYAM newspaper today, he said the GCC chiefs of staff discussed details of this plan at their recent meetings in the Sultanate of Oman. He said that this plan reflects the utmost attention given by the GCC states to the development and enhancement of their military forces in light of the given facts and developments that took place in the region.

In another development, 'Abdallah said that discussing the details of the Damascus Declaration agreement and approving its final draft has been delayed until April next year, adding that this has been agreed by the countries concerned with the agreement. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Accepts Invitation to Washington Talks

TA2511201691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] The Palestinians this evening replied in the affirmative to the U.S. Administration's invitation to the second round of talks, which will be held in Washington on 4 December. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Molly Williamson, the U.S. consul in Jerusalem, went to Faysal al-Husayni's home in East Jerusalem this evening, and after talking for around one hour, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi gave her a positive reply to the U.S. invitation.

Further on Decision To Attend

TA2611060091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The Palestinians have given a positive reply to the U.S. invitation to hold the second round of talks in Washington. The U.S. consul in Jerusalem received a positive answer from several members of the Palestinian delegation, as expressed by Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi. They met yesterday evening at Faysal al-Husayni's home in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin recording] [Amir] Molly Williamson, the U.S. consul in Jerusalem, and Michele Dunne, her aide from the consulate's political section, arrived at Faysal al-Husayni's home in East Jerusalem and, to all intents and purposes, received the Palestinians' agreement to participate in the second round of talks that will take place next week in Washington. At the end of an approximately one-hour conversation, Dr. 'Ashrawi walked out to the waiting news correspondents and said that the Palestinian reply was affirmative in principle.

['Ashrawi, in English] Our response is that in principle the Palestinians have no objection to attending the bilaterals in Washington, D.C. on 4 December, but a final decision is pending several issues that have to be worked out.

[Amir translates above remarks and continues] Some of the issues are technical, while others, Dr. 'Ashrawi stressed, involve substantive issues pertaining to the negotiations. We shall continue to work together, 'Ashrawi said—meaning together with the Americans—in order to permit the Palestinians to participate in the talks.

In a news conference near Faysal al-Husayni's home, Dr. 'Ashrawi again emphasized the Palestinian position on the issue of the settlements in the territories. As for the status of the Palestinian delegation, she pointed out that the delegation warrants the kind of status in Washington that will enable it to carry out its job, just like all the other delegations. 'Ashrawi asserted that a smaller delegation will attend the current round of talks.

['Ashrawi, in English] As far as we know, the Palestinian delegation this time will be smaller than the delegation that went to Madrid. It will be more condensed, and its work will be more cut out and more defined. There is no public conference. This will be more of a specialized delegation to deal with specific issues. [end recording]

'Abd-al-Shafi on Conditions

NC2511194691 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Head of the Palestinian delegation Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al- Shafi last night announced the Palestinians' acceptance to take part in the Washington negotiations. Sa'd al-Silwai, our correspondent in Amman, has had this interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi:

[Al-Silawi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has stressed that the Palestinian political leadership has agreed in principle to attend the round of bilateral talks in Washington. In an exclusive statement to the Middle East Broadcasting Center in reply to our question about the Palestinian delegation's visit to Moscow and the Palestinian participation in the upcoming Washington talks, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said the following:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] It has accepted, but it has demanded that the United States give the necessary facilities to the Palestinians who will accompany the delegation to Washington. The Palestinian leadership is waiting for the U.S. reply. We hope that there will be no difficulties, and that we will be in Washington on 4 December to begin the bilateral negotiations. [end recording]

[Al-Silawi] I asked Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi if the Soviet Union is ready to stop the Jewish immigration so as to stop the Israeli settlements. He answered:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] No. The Soviet Union, in agreement with the U.S. Government, will show that building settlements is incompatible with the peace process. [end recording]

[al-Silawi] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said that a meeting will take place between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides upon the arrival of the Palestinian delegation on Thursday.

Sha'th Tipped To Lead Delegation

TA2611113791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Nov 91 p A3

[Report by Gay Bekhor and Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] HA'ARETZ has learned that Nabil Sha'th, a senior PLO and Fatah official, will probably be the one representing the PLO behind the scenes at the bilateral talks in Washington, just as he did earlier in Madrid. [passage omitted]

It was also learned that the Palestinian delegation will include a legal adviser, Attorney Raja' Shihadah from Ramallah, and an economic adviser, Dr. 'Abd-al-Fatah Abu-Shukur from al-Najah University in Nabulus. Sari Nusaybah, who despite belonging to the advisory committee did not go to Madrid, will also participate in the delegation this time. There may also be changes in the delegation's composition.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 26 November in a report on page 5 adds that "Israeli security sources report an increase in the death threats to the members of the Palestinian delegation and their families. As a result of these threats, a member of the delegations' advisory committee recently announced his decision to resign and not attend the talks in Washington." The report adds that "sources in the defense establishment and the Army yesterday said: 'Such threats can in no way be discounted. In the prevailing reality in the territories, the distance between issuing blatant threats and acting on them is very small'."]

'Ashrawi on Status of Palestinian Team

NC2511151891 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Rome, Nov 25 (AFP)—Palestinians will no longer accept being represented as part of a joint delegation with Jordan in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, the Palestinian spokeswoman for the talks said in a report published Monday.

Hanan 'Ashrawi, quoted by the Italian daily newspaper UNITA, said: "We will press it ourselves as Palestinians because we (Jordan and the Palestinians) have two distinct national and territorial entities.

"The Jordanian and Palestinian delegations will have two co- chairmen and will be on a completely equal footing, even if the necessary coordination is maintained between them."

At the opening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid between October 30 and November 3, the Palestinians formed part of a joint delegation with Jordan, in keeping with Israeli demands.

The Palestinians "will no longer accept being presented jointly with the Jordanians," 'Ashrawi told the former Italian Communist Party newspaper.

The United States, as the key sponsor of the peace process, has called on the participants to resume bilateral peace talks in Washington on December 4. Israel, Syria and Lebanon have also been invited.

The negotiations are to be conducted on a dual-track basis, with the Arab-Israeli conflict dealt with separately from the Palestinian issue.

Jordan and the Palestinians have a pool of delegates from which to choose, according to the issues under negotiation with their Israeli counterparts in any given encounter.

Since some of the Jordanian negotiators are themselves of Palestinian origin, the issue may boil down to what title to give to mixed delegations for the different sessions, analysts said.

'Arafat Receives Soviet Message on Peace Talks

LD2511234191 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat received yesterday [25 November] a message from the Soviet leadership concerning the developments of the peace process and the convening of the second round of negotiations. 'Arafat received the message yesterday morning when he received Mr. Boris Shiborin, Soviet ambassador to Tunisia. During the meeting they discussed the developments of the peace process and stage which followed the convening of the Madrid conference.

'Text' of Intifadah Call No. 77

LD2511213591 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Nov 91

["Text" of call No. 77 issued by the Unified National Command of the Uprising, on the occasion of the intifadah entering its fifth year]

[Text] Valiant sons of our people, when you raised the slogan: No Voice is Louder Than the Voice of the Intifadah, you affirmed your struggle-related choice that the intifadah was the appropriate tactic with which you ensured your cohesiveness in order to realize your national objectives of return, setting up the state, and self-determination for all the concentrations of our people on the land of Palestine and in the diaspora. By raising the slogan of freedom and independence, you have summed up the objective of the national struggle in this difficult stage of the liberation march. And, in facing up to tyranny and the lean years, you have further rallied around your objectives and your leadership, the PLO, which imperialism and the Zionist plan seek to overlook and envelop with all means, because they know that the PLO is not only a representative framework and a symbolic entity for the national personality, but that it is also a program that includes the national consensus and unity. This unity covers all the struggling units, just as it covers the unity of our people too.

With national and popular unity, the wagon of freedom and independence moves forward. The Zionist and imperialist enemy will reap only failure in their attempts and wishes to split this unity, which has been strengthened with a torrent of the blood of martyrs and wounded, and the suffering of hundreds of thousands of detainees and their mothers and relatives as a result of differing political interpretation [natijatan littabayun fil ijtihad assiyasi].

Our people are entrenched behind one barricade, the barricade of the national program, and it has groups under the umbrella of the democracy of the revolution which allows political and intellectual pluralism and respects religions. Any subjects on which differences exist are settled with a return to the people and responsible dialogue, away from violence, which only adds grist to the mill of the usurping occupier, who is sitting on top of everyone and seeking to judaize what remains of Palestine, and working night and day to impose facts and measures to wrest holy Jerusalem and obliterate its Arab character. Even at the moment of political tactical divergence, our people can rest assured that the enemy will suffer as a result of his duplicity, because our unity in the field and in the intifadah will not be shaken, and all efforts will be directed toward the strengthening of the intifadah and the direction of all fists against the central occupying enemy. Heroes of the intifadah: The Zionist occupation, supported by its strategic ally, the United States—politically, economically, and militarily—continues to build settlements in Jerusalem, the Golan, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories. It continues too with the policy of judaization, particularly in Holy Jerusalem, confiscating and plundering more Arab land and dwellings, as the case was at [names of locations indistinct], disregarding international legitimacy and its resolutions which regard settlement as an unlawful matter. We, as the Unified Command—the field arm of the PLO—are of the view that halting settlement, dismantling settlements, and placing the occupied territories under the temporary supervision of the UN in concert with the withdrawal of occupation in all its aspects and establishments, is the appropriate mechanism for the retrieving of our national rights and the embodiment of our independent state in which our people live in dignity and pride, like the rest of the peoples of the world. The conspiracies of slaughter cannot annihilate six million Palestinians full of the dreams of independence and firm patriotism.

Sons of our heroic people, the outbreak of the modern Palestinian revolution, which was crowned with the outbreak of the glorious January intifadah and which will enter its fifth year as lofty as ever, reaffirming the rights of the people and reminding the world of the fact that the world has two yardsticks, and continuing to demand the application of international legitimacy to our Palestinian issue in full, and reaffirming too the experiences of other revolutions in which we have learned that freedom can only be achieved by way of closing ranks and uniting the internal front and working tirelessly to correct the balances of power and to inflict on the Zionist enemy loss after loss so that its presence in the occupied territory can be transformed into a losing project economically, politically, and militarily; this will only be realized through the escalation of the intifadah and the rallying around the Unified National Command as a field arm of the PLO, the legitimate representative of our people wherever our people are. National unity in the field is the solid rock on which all conspiracies will flounder.

On the national level, first, the Unified National Command renews its pledge to the masses of our people during the Day of Palestine on 29 November when Resolution 181 permitted our people to establish their state. The Command renews the pledge to go on working toward the path that leads to the establishment of a sovereign state; the Command calls on the UN and the states that have signed this resolution to implement it and to enable our people to have the opportunity to establish their state on their national soil.

Two: The Unified National Command stresses its absolute rejection of the intervention of the forces of occupation in the Chambers of Commerce elections, either by preventing candidates from entering these elections or by imposing candidates on whom Chambers of Commerce requirements do not apply. In this connection, the Unified National Command salutes the candidates of Chambers of Commerce in Qalqilyah and Janin, who have resisted attempts by the forces of occupation to prevent some candidates from taking part in these elections when they announced that they would suspend their candidacy until the forces of occupation stopped intervening in the affairs of the Chambers of Commerce.

The Unified Command also emphasizes its decision not to take part in Chambers of Industry elections as along as Israeli military amendments on these chambers stand.

Three: The Unified National Command addresses its grassroot and striking forces to develop their efforts and carry out joint activities inside districts, villages, and camps to thwart the schemes of the enemies that aim to

undermine the intifidah. By escalating the struggle against the forces of occupation, popular acts of violence, and strikes and mass marches, a response will have been presented to Shamir and companions.

Four: The Unified National Command addresses its greetings and congratulations to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of its establishment; and profits from this militant occasion to express its pride regarding the revolutionary significance embodied by this occasion, which forms part of the meaning regarding the start of the contemporary Palestinian revolution.

Five: The Unified National Command strongly condemns the raid carried out by Israeli police forces and the so-called Border guards against offices of the Judicial Court in Jerusalem; the stealing of documents and papers which prove that the court is only administering the civilian affairs of the population of the city; and the theft of other valuable deeds.

This act confirms once again the intentions of the Israeli forces of occupation regarding the right of the holy town vis-a-vis Judaization, and an attempt to wipe out anything that is not of a Jewish nature. In this connection, the National Command appeals to the international community and the UN Security Council to denounce this organized government act of theft and to dispatch UN envoys to lay down suitable measures on the guarantee of the rights and freedoms of Palestinian citizens, including putting the occupied land under provisional international supervision in order to protect Arab inhabitants from the oppression of the Israeli forces of occupation.

Six: The Unified National Command renews its greetings to the members of police who have resigned and who have respected the decision on boycotting work for the police. The Command stresses once again that the causes that warranted this resignation still stand. Therefore, it appeals to them to continue their position, which rejects returning to the police force, and urges the people not to forget their loyal sons who are committed to its political decisions.

Seven: The Unified National Command urges the committee of supervision of the elections of the Arab Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Jerusalem to quickly conclude the arrangements for the holding of elections for the Chamber as quickly as possible.

Eight: The Unified National Command reaffirms that mourning for martyrs comes in the form of trade strike in the area of the martyr for one day only, and this should be accompanied by a marked escalation against the forces of occupation.

At the external level:

First: The Unified National Command strongly condemns the imperialist threats against the Libyan Jamahiriyah through the leveling of accusations against it. This reminds us of the climate before the imperialist aggression against Iraq. In this respect, the Unified National Command warns the states of evil and aggression, especially American imperialism, against an aggression against Libya. The Arab masses will not remain lethargic forever, and they will retaliate strongly against any aggression against Libya.

Second: While affirming the illegality of the policy of tax plundering practiced by the occupation authorities against the sons of our people, the Unified National Command addresses the United Nations and the international institutions regarding the need to intervene to investigate this and to oblige the Zionist enemy to stop this programmed plundering of the potentials of our people.

Third: As the United Nations is on the threshold of the annual discussions of the Palestinian problem, and on the 43rd anniversary of Resolution No. 194 adopted by the UN on 11 December 1948, which specified giving the sons of our people, who were forced to leave their land in 1948, the right to return to their homes, the Unified National Command calls on the United Nations to adopt new resolutions which will work toward the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy on the Palestinian problem.

O masses of our struggling people, as it sees in you the potential abilities and unlimited readiness for giving, the Unified National Command calls on you to implement the following actions:

On 29 November: the day of [two words indistinct] by raising the Palestinian flags; big rallies should be staged; and the occupation forces and herds of settlers should be confronted. This will be the anniversary of the partition resolution and in protest against the policy of [words indistinct].

[Passage indistinct] On 25 December: the Unified National Command greets the sons of the Christian sects who follow the Western calendar and congratulates them on the occasion of the glorious Christmas.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Nations Agree To Hold Summit in Colombo

BK2511115491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] All seven SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] member countries have agreed to hold the SAARC summit in Colombo as soon as possible and every effort is being made for the meeting to take

place in December or early next January. Foreign Ministry sources told LANKAPUVATH that only the dates have to be finalized for the summit in Colombo. The current chairman, Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, will hand over the chairmanship of SAARC to President Ranasinghe Premadasa. The Foreign Ministry sources said suitable dates have to be found due to prearranged schedules having to be accomodated. For instance, the South Asian Federation games to be held in Sri Lanka in December. [as heard]

Algeria

Libyan Official Meets President on Lockerbie

LD2511235291 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Within his presidential activities, President of the Republic Chadli Bendjedid today received a special envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The envoy, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, who visited Morocco before arriving in Algiers today, said after the meeting:

[Begin al-Humaydi recording] During my meeting with the president we had a long dialogue on many issues. These were both bilateral and international, especially the issue of the hour, the unfounded U.S. and British accusation against the Jamahiriyah regarding the explosion on board the aircraft, which you know about. I found that Algeria fully understands and totally supports the Libyan point of view after we outlined all the proof and evidence, which confirm that Libya is innocent of such accusations. We are partners in the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] accord, which, among other things, in Article 14 stipulates joint defense: Any act of aggression against any AMU member state is considered as an act of aggression against all AMU member states. [end recording]

Ruling Party Central Committee Views Elections

LD2311220891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee [CC] extraordinary session was concluded this evening at the Palais de Nations. The session was devoted to the party's strategy in the upcoming legislative elections. The session was crowned with a final statement.

[Correspondent] The directive that resulted from this emergency session of the FLN Central Committee was a call to take part in the legislative elections—the call both to political formations and the people. It affirmed that the election campaign should be a debate on the major issues in readiness for a national coalition. After the legislative elections the FLN will work to form a national coalition on the basis of an agreed national program. [passage omitted]

It appears that there was agreement to shelve the question of settling differences and squabbles until after the legislative elections, and to be precise, to the real hour: i.e., during the party congress. Some FLN Central Committee sources believe that the issues which still remain undecided at this session—the matter here concerns the economy—will be raised very sharply or indeed until the FLN takes a clear stand toward it [as heard].

It is therefore noteworthy that postponing the resolution of the differences and clarifying the attitudes are due to the nature of the stage—i.e., the need to prepare for the legislative elections first and foremost. The debate on the destiny of the FLN will start after the elections.

We recall here that the national committee on preparing for the congress which was set up at the previous extraordinary session managed after a lengthy debate to appoint the bureau, which comprises Abdelhamid Mehri as chairman and the Political Bureau as members, in addition to 7 members from the national committee. As for the issue of the militants who stood as liberal candidates, it has been decided to freeze their membership as militants if they persist in not changing their attitude.

We learned that the secretary general of the Peasants Federation announced his withdrawal [unspecified], and Mr. [word indistinct] is also expected to withdraw.

Prime Minister Discusses Elections

LD2511201891 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpts] In just over a month, on 26 December, and then on 16 February our first truly democratic legislative elections will take place throughout Algeria. Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali is the guest of RFI [Radio France International] today. Benoit Ruelle asked him if these elections are indeed going to take place on the date scheduled.

[Begin recording] [Ghozali] God willing, yes. We have arranged for them to take place, so my reply is exactly the same as any head of government might give you when he is preparing for elections. These are for real; they are not a joke.

[Ruelle] One has the impression that a large number of Algerians no longer believe in them, and at the same time—this is a paradox—do not place much hope in these elections.

[Ghozali] [passage omitted] You might say that there is a mixture of concern and hope both at the same time because Algerians are also well aware of the fact that there is a dialectical link between the political and economic questions, and that the previous governments have shown a certain inability to cope with economic and social problems, for the precise reason that, above all, since the Constitution of 1989 there has been a problem of political legitimacy, which poisons economic life and which considerably diminishes the government's capacity to tackle the problems, which are major problems. At the present time there is no government which is capable of taking in-depth measures or measures which provide in-depth solutions, because in order to take such measures one must have the support of public opinion, and one must have, let us say, the status of a government, whether popular or otherwise—it matters little—but a government which stems from the will of the people. This is what has been lacking so far, at least up until the last government, till the last XYZ [as heard], till the last government of Algeria, as a result of which people believe—and in any case this is the belief of my government, and my own belief—that nothing serious can be done if we do not solve this problem of the legitimacy of the institutions, the legitimacy of the

assembly, the legitimacy of the government. The assembly, which has its role and is an elected assembly but which was elected within the framework of the single-party system, began to be considered from 1988 as a survivor from the single party. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rally for National Unity Elects Leader

LD2411123891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] News of the parties: Today Moussa Meghni was elected leader of the Rally for National Unity, which was founded in July. The party has offices in eight provinces. It nominated 12 of its members to run in the upcoming legislative elections.

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From Syria; Musa Views Talks

NC2511215191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him returned home this evening following a visit to Damascus, where he held intensive talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the talks were important and positive and were characterized by amity, understanding, and the desire to safeguard the requirements of the next stage of the Middle East peace process, which will begin with the bilateral negotiations at its proposed venue in Washington on 4 December.

Musa added that the two leaders, Mubarak and al-Asad, discussed the means to produce positive results in these negotiations which will contribute to holding multifaceted negotiations between Israel and the Arab states that are concerned with the Middle East dispute. The foreign minister went on to say that the two leaders touched on all issues pertaining to the Damascus declaration and the means to implement its articles and achieve joint cooperation between the eight Arab states.

The foreign minister added that Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad also discussed the accomplishments achieved so far by the higher joint Egyptian-Syrian committee and the implementation of the projects as specified by the committee during its regular meetings in Cairo and Damascus.

Syrian Stand Assessed

NC2611083891 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation returned to the homeland last night following a visit to Damascus. During the visit, President Mubarak held intensive talks with President al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Our radio correspondent, who accompanied the Egyptian delegation, has learned that the Syrian Government wants the peace process to continue and to be stable, believes that bilateral talks must proceed seriously and swiftly toward discussing the outstanding problems, and emphasizes the need to make progress as quickly as possible. The Syrians will not accept prevarication or prolonged talk on procedures. They want to begin immediate discussions on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and to implement the land-for-peace principle.

The Syrian Government believes multilateral negotiations are a part of the peace process. The Syrian position is based, however, on the need to first achieve tangible progress in bilateral negotiations.

Our correspondent has also learned that Egypt and Syria agreed to continue consultations and coordination in the coming stage due to Arab countries' desire to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace settlement in the Middle East.

Libyan Official Arrives With Lockerbie Message

NC2511143491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a four-day visit carrying a message from the leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

The Libyan official said that his visit is in connection with the U.S. and Western threats against the Libyan Jamahariyah. He added that the visit is also an opportunity to review bilateral cooperation between Egypt and Libya.

As for his country's stand on the U.S. accusations, Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah said it is clear and that Libya has confirmed it has nothing to do with this incident. He added that the Libyan Jamahiriyah condemns such actions and has asked that a neutral side investigate this accusation to prove who is the real culprit in this act. He emphasized that Libya does not accept the adversary to also be the judge and for the adversary to accuse whomever he wants.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi welcomed the Libyan guest and said that the visit is an opportunity to exchange views on the developing relations between the two countries. He noted that a technical Libyan delegation has been in Cairo for four days to review relations between the two countries and the points on which agreement has been reached. He said that he will meet with the Libyan guest within two days.

Iran's Habibi Criticized for Comments on Egypt

NC2211214891 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 Nov 91 pp 1, 5

[Article by Ibrahim Sa'dah: "A Silly Joke by Habibi"]

[Excerpts] Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi gave an interview to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH the day before yesterday in which he gave his country's views on the political crises, economic problems, and security, environmental, religious, and other issues that preoccupy the world.

What concerns us are Habibi's statements on Egypt, its identity, capabilities, and relations with the region in general and its relations with fraternal Arab states in particular. The Iranian first vice president clearly declared his rejection of any Egyptian role in the Gulf region. He also declared his country's and ayatollahs'—who rule and subdue the Persian people—rejection of any Egyptian security role! He believes that responsibility for the Persian Gulf—as Iranians insist on calling our Arabian Gulf—lies only with the people who live in it. And, because it is geographically distant from that Gulf, Egypt should not stick its nose in what goes on there.

Habibi did not satisfy himself with these "sharp" and "serious" remarks; he wanted to demonstrate his wit to curb the dreariness and dullness of his words. He said sarcastically: If we accept Egypt's involvement in security arrangements in the Gulf, will Egypt allow us to play a role in Suez Canal security?

That is a very silly joke; it is obsolete and has been repeated too often. Several Iranian ayatollah's have repeated it in the past months, as soon as the Iraqi aggressor was defeated and Kuwait was returned to its people. The stand adopted by the Iranian rulers on the occupation of Kuwait was repulsive, reflecting an exposed political opportunism with a clear objective. They called for a "neutral" stand while they were dealing and communicating with the Iraqis in the hope of hitting two birds with one stone! They restored relations with Iraq after a bloody eight-year war. They welcomed Iraqi civilian and military aircraft on their territory and waited for the outcome of the crisis. If Iraq had won the war and continued its usurpation of Kuwait, it would not have forgotten Iran's support during the crisis. Hence, the Iranian ayatollahs would have swallowed a big portion of the great cake. On the other hand, they knew that if Iraq was defeated and destroyed they could court the Kuwaitis, claiming that they had taken a neutral stand and that they did not bless the occupation of Kuwait. Iran would then have claimed the price of that "neutral" stand from the Kuwaitis.

This is how the Iranian rulers planned their course since the early moments of the Gulf crisis. They could have achieved their goal if Egypt had not participated as an active partner in the crisis. If not for Egypt's rejection of the occupation of Kuwait and Saddam Husayn's ambitions, President Mubarak's decision to send Egyptian troops to defend all the Arabian Gulf countries, and the actual participation of these troops in liberating Kuwait and driving the aggressor out of every inch of its land, the Arab people—from the ocean to the Gulf—would not have accepted the inflow of foreign forces into Arab territories to take part in striking at, expelling, and dwarfing the Iraqi occupiers. [passage omitted]

Next to Saddam, Tehran's ayatollahs suffered most from the war's outcome. They were disheartened and shocked when the Arabian Gulf people hailed the Egyptian president, soldiers, and stance. They were even more sad when they saw the Gulf governments insisting on the Egyptian forces participation in securing the Arabian Gulf on a permanent basis. Immediately, the Iranian rulers raised the odd and peculiar "Gulf is for the Gulf people only" slogan! When the Gulf countries expressed their desire to allow Egypt to participate in the permanent protection of the Gulf, the ayatollahs in Tehran wasted no time in denouncing this involvement, threatening Arab Gulf governments that Iran would permit no other military presence in the Gulf other than that of the Gulf countries themselves.

Egypt is the target; it is the rejected party. The ayatollahs' first goal is to exclude Egypt from the Gulf security arrangements. Having been denied a share of Saddam Husayn's "cake", Iran wants to impose its control and terrorism over the Gulf countries, under the excuse that it adopted a "neutral" stand throughout the crisis. According to Iranian rulers, Kuwait would not have returned to its owners if it were not for their stand. In order for Iran to carry out its goal to control and terrorize the Gulf countries, Egypt must be excluded. [passage omitted]

By rejecting the participation of the greatest Arab state in protecting its sisters, I believe that Iran is sticking its nose in matters that are none of its concern. The security of the Gulf Arab states does not concern Iran. In addition, maintaining the Arab identity of the region will never please Iran's rulers, whose ambitions in the region are no different than those of ancient Persian emperors and kings. [passage omitted]

The Gulf rulers were the ones who requested Egypt's help and support against the Iraqi occupier. These same rulers were the ones who requested Egyptian participation in the permanent security order. Why, then, did none of these rulers denounce the Tehran rulers' statements against Egypt, what they termed as Egypt's interference in Gulf affairs, or any Egyptian participation in the Gulf security?

Really, I am very surprised at the silence of the Gulf kings, amirs, and shaykhs. They have remained silent over the attacks on Egypt by Tehran's mighty and lowly people at a time when we see and hear them stressing the nobility of Egypt's stand, the Egyptian president's courage and patriotism, and the Egyptian people's great support, backing, and enthusiasm. My surprise, and that of millions of Egyptians, is doubled when I see the Gulf Arab papers flocking to meet Tehran's mighty and lowly rulers and hold long interviews with them that include attacks, insinuations, mockery, and rejection of Egypt, discrediting its identity, role, and status.

Don't tell me that the press, especially in the fraternal country of Qatar, is free to publish what it likes and

interview whomever it likes. Don't tell me that recognition of Egypt's role in the Gulf crisis could be underlined and consolidated through a press interview with the Iranian vice president in which he mocks Egypt and urges excluding it from vital Arab issues. Very simply, he does not hesitate to divest it of its identity and Arabism.

Habibi's remarks about and against Egypt have offended every Egyptian and affected the Egyptian people's view of the stand of an Arab state which has enjoyed and continues to enjoy the love and affection of the Egyptian people.

Once again, I would like to pose the same question to Doha's rulers: Why would you publish insolent remarks against Egypt by Iranians, big and small alike, in a fraternal paper? If you approve of the Iranian viewpoint on excluding Egypt from the Gulf security order, why do you not declare it openly and directly, without resorting to a Persian Iranian tongue to say it on your behalf?!

I wish I could hear the answer to this question from the rulers of the fraternal state of Qatar, so that my surprise can be removed and my fears scattered!

Report Examines Deputies' Hostility to Government

NC2211202991 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
21 Nov 91 pp 1, 4

[Article by Jamal Badawi: "We Are a People Torn Between a Government Rejected by Parliament and an Assembly Rejected by the People"]

[Excerpts] What occurred in the recent parliamentary panel meeting of the National Democratic Party [NDP] should have never happened without a daring pause to study the incident and its implications to understand its dimensions and objectives.

Imagine the majority deputies in the People's Assembly disowning the present government, shouting in the face of its head, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, and interrupting the head of the parliamentary group, Kamal al-Shadhili, as he tried to voice the party's support for the government. All this happened in the presence of the president of the Republic and the NDP chairman. The prime minister had to leave the meeting place soaked in sweat. His ministers had to run after him to escape the NDP deputies' wrath.

Why did the NDP deputies take a hostile stand against a government that rules Egypt in its name? If they harbor such hidden animosity for the government, why did they not express their true feelings at the People's Assembly, which is the natural place to voice views and stands? Perhaps they only oppose the government in the party's headquarters and support it in the Assembly. In other words, they hate the government secretly and show their love for it only in front of the television cameras! Why do the NDP deputies put on stern faces inside party headquarters, attack the government, and say that it does not represent them only to later shed that mask and put on the lamb's face in the People's Assembly and defend the government with peerless enthusiasm? How should we interpret this duality in the ruling party's stand toward its government? Do stands change with the changing places?

This blatant contradiction in the NDP deputies' position is a true reflection of the inconsistency marking the political, social, and economic life under the sovereignty of the NDP and its wise government; each belongs to the other and then again disowns the other. The government says it represents the party and the party deputies come out with a surprising announcement in the president's presence that the government does not represent them. The house of deputies claims that it represents the majority, while the majority deputies declare that the government is ignoring the Assembly and paying no attention to its deputies' demands. In the morning the government says that it is pursuing the course of liberating the economy, and in the afternoon its says that it will never relinquish the public sector. The government says that it is observing justice between the different classes, and then it takes and encourages measures to widen the gap between the have's and the have not's!! Wherever you turn your face, the inconsistency between words and deeds will shock you.

This is the real calamity in Egypt: The country lives under a government which is rejected at the parliamentary level and a People's Assembly which is rejected at the popular level. Meanwhile, the people are confused and engulfed in their grinding poverty and misery, unable to do anything to change the reality. Everything is subject to the state's will. If the people turn to the government, they find it in a coma. It sells dreams and hopes of reform in the near future, while the people merely want to live today before they die tomorrow. It is the people's right to have a better life than their fathers and forefathers had because the wheel of progress runs forward and stops only when it despairs. As time passes, the gap widens between the minority who enjoy everything and the crushed, overwhelming majority who cannot afford food, medicine, a house, or even a grave to shelter them. [passage omitted]

Corruption will continue to carve its way in our bones to the marrow, and no hand will reach up to uproot it. It spreads like a cancer; its harmful cells grow in areas which were once corruption proof. We have seen invulnerable castles collapsing before the tyranny of corruption. Facing a deluge, man forgets his sentiments, principles, values, and morals. The only principle which remains is that egocentric principle of "to be or not to be."

Should I tell you what the real problem is? The problem lies in deceiving, misleading, shunning reality, and not being honest with ourselves or others. Examples of deception are clearer than the midday sun. The state wastes no opportunity to declare that it is committed to democracy and that it will never deviate from it. What is democracy? What is the people's share of it?

The state takes from democracy its outer crust, leaving the substance unchanged since the totalitarian regime. There are numerous forms of democracy which take the form of multiple parties, houses of representatives, constitutions, an opposition, and so forth. The state is happy with that and says we have a peerless democracy just because we have parties, a free press, and an opposition which writes what it wants. What more do you want?

We say to the state that all of Egypt's afflictions can be traced back to this inconsistency between form and substance; the state satisfies itself with form, while the people demand substance. Yes we have houses of representatives, but they are artificial and represent only 10 percent of the people. The silent majority satisfies itself with boycotting the elections, trusting that everything is prearranged and agreed upon in advance. Hence we have weak assemblies which embrace drug dealers, suspects, and dinosaurs who abuse their assembly membership and immunity to get extravagantly rich, drain the people's wealth, and manipulate their resources; otherwise they would threaten the government and intimidate ministers, governors, and key public sector figures with inquests!!

The people know the real motives which prompted the NDP deputies to slander their government and describe it in despicable terms during the recent meeting of the NDP parliamentary panel. The people know that these deputies were not motivated by seeking to safeguard the people's interests and that they did not oppose the government because it is incapable—because this is how they want it to be. The people know that the deputies did that out of their eagerness to safeguard their own interests. If they were really eager to safeguard the public interest, they would have employed the legitimate weapon used in all firm democracies—namely, to "withdraw confidence" from the government. They did not and will not do that because they know that this weapon is empty in our country; because our esteemed Constitution which gave them that right with the right hand snatched it from them with the left; and because the Constitution gives the president the authority to dissolve the People's Assembly if it dares to withdraw confidence from the government.

This means that the righteous majority deputies have given their personal interests priority over the homeland. They transferred the battle to a field in which they can terrorize the ministers without facing the risk of dissolving the Assembly. They thus had their way. Instructions were given to the ministers to gain the favor of government deputies and respond to their demands to avoid their wrath, appease them, and make everything peaceful on the battlefield.

Have you seen anything more ridiculous? Have you seen people's interests being wasted in a more extravagant manner? Time will pass and we will see wonders.

Mubarak Receives Saudi Military Chief of Staff

NC2611100591 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Staff General Muhammad Bin-Salih al-Hammad, chief of staff of the Saudi Armed Forces, at the presidential office in Cairo this morning. The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, chief of staff of the armed forces.

Libya

New Intelligence Chief To 'Purge' Service

NC2511191991 Paris AFP in English 1814 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Nicosia, Nov 25 (AFP)—Libya on Monday named a new intelligence chief whose task, according to a Libyan diplomatic source, will be to purge the service following U.S. and French accusations of Libyan involvement in attacks on civilian airliners.

Libya at the same time sent envoys throughout the Arab world with messages from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi challenging allegations that Libyan agents had a hand in the destruction of a U.S. plane over Scotland in 1988 and a French airliner over Chad a year later.

In Cairo Libyan Prime Minister Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah said a message from al-Qadhdhafi to President Husni Mubarak warned of "U.S. threats against Libya" and denied his country's implication in the airliner attacks.

Libya on Sunday appealed for support from the Arab League, which is based in Cairo.

U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Robert Pelletreau earlier Monday delivered a text of the U.S. accusation against two Libyan agents—charging them in the bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland—to Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al Majid.

Libya's official JANA news agency meanwhile announced that Colonel 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Dibri had been named to head the country's Office of External Security.

Al-Dibri's nomination "is part of a series of measures undertaken by Libya to uncover the truth concerning accusations made against certain elements of the Libyan intelligence service," according to a Libyan diplomatic source.

"The People's Congress, the highest authority in Libya, has instructed Col. al-Dibri to cooperate fully with the judge responsible for investigating the allegations of Libyan involvement" in the attacks, he said.

Two hundred and seventy people died in the destruction of the Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie, while 170 perished in the bombing of a DC-10 airliner operated by the French firm UTA.

The Libyan source said "the new intelligence chief, who has extensive contacts abroad, is known for his integrity,

both inside and outside the country" and has been ordered "to carry out a purge to remove certain elements from the intelligence service."

"He has also been instructed to cooperate with the appropriate services in other countries in the exchange of necessary information" in the attacks on the airliners, the source said.

After Cairo Prime Minister Durdah is scheduled to visit Syria, Jordan and Yemen.

A second Libyan envoy, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, on Monday delivered messages from al-Qadhdhafi to Sultan Qabus of Oman and the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

A third emissary, al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi, met Monday with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and was last Friday in Morocco to see King Hassan II.

Official Assails UK Statement on Lockerbie

LD2511134291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1007 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Nov (JANA)—The secretary general of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has commented on a statement made by a British Foreign Office under secretary at a news conference yesterday, and said that the Foreign Office official had misled British and international public opinion....We are challenging him before the world to produce any substantial material evidence that would prove that Libya is incriminated in the Lockerbie incident....If he has convincing material evidence, as he says he has, why then does he not produce it to any neutral international party?

UK Criticism of Judiciary Rejected

LD2411173791 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli 24 November JANA—Some British media have attributed a statement to a responsible source in the British Foreign Office in which it was asserted that "Britain does not trust the Libyan judicial system."

Commenting on this, JANA's political editor said: In spite of the positive stand adopted by the Great Jamahiriyah and the cooperation it has shown in the issue of investigating the crash of the Pan American airliner in Scotland in 1988, and in spite of the specific legal steps adopted by the Great Jamahiriyah after receiving the indictment issued by the Scottish lord advocate, this has not met any response from officials of the British Government; some of them have even uttered statements characterized by fabrications aimed at escalating the situation and have gone to the extent of throwing doubts on the neutrality and justice of the Libyan judiciary. The Great Jamahiriyah rejects this statement because it besmirches the Libyan judicial authorities and interferes in Libyan internal affairs.

The British statement has premeditated aims and it indicates that the British side does not want to resort to the logic of reason, to wisdom, to dialogue, and to the principles of international law and legality, which were repeatedly called for by the Great Jamahiriyah.

TV Show Discusses 'Allegations'

LD2311000591 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1021 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Nov (JANA)—Libyan television broadcast live last night a discussion on the U.S. and British allegations leveled against the Great Jamahiriyah concerning the crash of the Pan Am airliner over British soil. A number of expert university lecturers in law, politics, and economics took part in this discussion, in addition to various academics and thinkers from the Great Jamahiriyah.

The participants at this discussion emphasized that the U.S. Administration is trying to impose its hegemony and domination over the peoples of the world, while international law and its basic principles emphasize the right of peoples to self-determination and to choose the system they desire for themselves, be it political, economic, social, or cultural.

The participants in this discussion also emphasized that the so-called new world order that is being preached by the United States actually means imposing more U.S. hegemony and domination on the world's peoples now that the United States is ruling the world singlehandedly following the collapse of the East bloc, which used to be under the leadership of the Soviet Union.

In this discussion the speakers pointed out that that storm aroused by the U.S. and British authorities against the Great Jamahiriyah is within the framework of the U.S. scheme aimed at terrorizing the peoples of the world. This is a matter which contradicts all international laws and traditions which emphasize that the sovereignty of states should be respected and force should not be resorted to.

The participants in the discussion pointed out that the world is now undergoing a moral crisis and a legal crisis under the shadow of U.S. unilateral control and hegemony, which is not in the interest of all mankind. They emphasized that the United Nations is also going through a crisis after the United States has smashed the role which the former should have been playing in preserving international security and peace.

The participants in the discussion emphasized that the Great Jamahiriyah respects the law, that it is committed to it, and that in a number of cases it has resorted to international justice, while America refuses to resort to it or to deal with others according to it.

Arab Ministers Urged To View 'Threats' to Libya

PM2111153491 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18 Nov 91 p 11

[Editorial: "Libya and Terrorism"]

[Text] If the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait divided the Arabs into two camps in the face of the U.S.-Atlantic intervention, the present threats to launch a military strike against Libya should unite Arab ranks to prevent such a strike, especially as the case of the blowing up of the U.S. aircraft over the Scottish area of Lockerbie has not been finally settled and no final judicial ruling convicting Libya or any of its of its citizens has been issued in that case.

From the U.S. tone, it is clear that preparations and contacts are currently being made between Washington and several European capitals to rally support for some kind of step against Libya. Regrettably, we have not yet heard any calls for a meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss these threats.

The Gulf states cannot oppose or boycott such a meeting, as they did some previous meetings. This is because Libya adopted a moderate position on the crisis over the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and participated in all the meetings that the Arab League demanded be held in Cairo; it also faced much criticism because of that position.

So while the Arabs have kept silent about the starvation siege now being imposed on Iraq to avoid angering certain financially and economically influential Gulf states, any silence about another economic embargo against Libya or arrangements to hit it militarily will be entirely unjustifiable.

We find it regrettable that the concept of the new world order should be to wave a big stick at the Arabs, and the Arabs alone, and to use numerous excuses and pretexts in that regard, whether with regard to the invasion of Kuwait, Iraq's possession of nuclear plants, or accusing Libya of being behind the blowing up of the U.S. plane. Some Arab governments may have some reservations about the regime in Libya, just as that regime has reservations about many of the practices of other Arab governments, but what all Arabs must not forget now is the Libyan people—a noble Arab people who will suffer the most from that embargo. It is unreasonable and illogical to punish and starve that people and probably to kill some of their sons just because of a charge against two of their sons which has not yet been officially proved in respected international courts.

Any further military aggression against Libya will cause huge losses among the innocent, just as did the U.S. raid on Tripoli in April 1986 and the Atlantic raids and the siege of Iraq.

The United States would be making a big mistake if it decided to embark on any act of aggression, whether economic or military, especially because many of the Arab peoples do not forget what it has done to the fraternal people of Iraq. This is because that people's suffering has not ended and is increasing, despite the Iraqi forces' removal from Kuwait. Such an act of aggression would certainly embarrass the United States' friends in the region, and its disadvantages would outweigh its advantages with regard to U.S. policy in the region and its relations with the Arab East and West Europe, because it would be impossible to justify. This is why the United States' friends in the Arab region—and they are many—are urged to intervene with President Bush to explain the consequences of any new foolish move against Libya by him and his government and to try to contain the matter.

This does not mean that we do not condemn terrorism, hijacking, and blowing up planes, and all those behind any such operations. The innocent in the air are entitled to enjoy complete security and safety, just as the Libyan people on the ground are entitled to enjoy them, like the other peoples of the world.

Morocco

Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy Comments on Lockerbie Charges

LD2511231591 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the command of the 1 September Revolution and envoy of President [as heard] Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi to his majesty the king, has returned to the Jamahiriyah after visiting Morocco, where he was received by his majesty the king. Before leaving Marrakech-Menara airport, where he was seen off by adviser to the king Mohamed Awwad and the two countries' ambassadors to Rabat and Tripoli, he defined the objective of his visit:

[Begin al-Humaydi recording] We are leaving fraternal Morocco with satisfaction after my meeting [words indistinct] His Majesty King Hassan II, to whom I carried a message from his brother, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great 1 September Revolution, concerning the issue of the U.S. and English accusation against the Jamahiriyah. I put before his majesty the truth and evidence which prove the fallacy of the accusations carried by the international news media, including the U.S., British, and French media.

Today I informed King Hassan that he has our official mandate to contact the United States, Britain, and France to request the file of the case. He has a mandate to do what he sees fit to tackle the subject in his capacity as chairman of the Presidential Council of the Arab Maghreb Union member states, on the one hand, and given his experience, wisdom, and trust on the part of all sides, on the other.

He now has all the facts from the Jamahiriyah. We demonstrated the Jamahiriyah's full preparedness to cooperate with any neutral international committee to examine the information available to the Libyan judiciary.

Upon leaving, I reiterate our appreciation of and satisfaction with the good welcome and hospitality we received in Morocco. Thank you. [end recording]

King Hassan Says Arabs Set To Discuss Jerusalem

AU2511104791 Paris AFP in English 1026 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Rome, Nov 25 (AFP)—King Hassan II of Morocco said in an interview published Monday that Arabs would be ready to discuss the status of Jeruslam if Israel promised to return control to Muslims of Islamic holy sites in the city.

In the interview with the Italian daily CORRIERE DELLA SERA, the king, who heads the Al-Quds Islamic Commission on Jerusalem, said the "problem of Jerusalem is for us above all a problem of religious dignity."

"The Hebrew and Christian holy sites do not interest us. We want our own, and that is all. If one day they (the Israelis) tell us that they will be returned, we will then be willing to openly examine the entire status of Jerusalem," he said.

As head of the Al-Quds Commission, no one could prevent King Hassan from seeing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir "if he sends me a proposal that could serve as a basis for negotiating the return of the Arab part of Jerusalem," he said.

Foreign Ministry Criticizes Spanish Actions

LD2411140191 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 23 (MAP)—Some diplomats of the Moroccan General Consulate in Barcelona were recently summoned before the court. The procedure used by the Spanish committing magistrate is in utter contradiction with the provisions of the 1963 Vienna convention on consular relations, said the spokesman for the Moroccan Department of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

The spokesman told "MAP" that Spanish authorities had not made any move, neither to Morocco's embassy in Madrid nor to the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, as provided by diplomatic usages in force.

Spanish Ambassador to Rabat Joachim Ortega was received Friday morning by Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali who informed him on the Kingdom's concern over the behavior of the concerned Spanish authorities, the spokesman said.

The spokesman wondered whether the move is not meant to put into question the process started by Spain to regularise the situation of Moroccan nationals who were living in Spain when the entry visa requirement was enforced and, consequently, put at stake Moroccan-Spanish relations.

Morocco which is keen on maintaining privileged relations with Spain is equally determined to shoulder its responsibility to defend its nationals' interests and rights and its representatives' dignity, the spokesman said.

Tunisia

Libyan Envoy Denies Lockerbie Accusations

LD2611004191 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received yesterday [25 November] evening at Carthage Palace Major al-Khuwayladi al-Humaydi. Mr. 'Abd-al-Ati al-Ubaydi, Libyan ambassador to Tunisia, also attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, Major al-Khuwayladi al-Humaydi made the following statement: Today I was pleased to meet Tunisian President Brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. I conveyed to him a message from his brother the leader of the revolution, Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi.

During our meeting we had the opportunity for a purposeful, long dialogue which included numerous bilateral and international issues, particularly the U.S.-British accusation against Libya blaming for the explosion of the well-known U.S. airliner.

For our part, as a part of this Arab nation with its history and human civilization and values, we emphasize that we are against terrorism in all its forms and methods, especially against those related to detaining and killing the innocent.

The Great Jamahiriyah had a great role in helping in the release of numerous hostages in Lebanon.

We declare our complete readiness to participate in any international conference which would convene to draw up an international document specifying the forms and meaning of terrorism, and we would be committed to it.

We will also accept any neutral international committee to inspect the investigations carried out by the Libyan judiciary of the aforementioned accusations. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Oil Minister Departs for OPEC Meeting 25 Nov

LD2511131591 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Kuwait, 25 November, (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Hamud 'Abdallah al-Ruqba has said that Kuwait's current production quota was 1.5 million barrels and that if there are any increases in the OPEC production ceiling Kuwait must get the largest share because it was prevented from exporting oil for a long time.

Before leaving for Vienna today to attend the meeting of OPEC ministers due to open today, the minister said that the meeting will not discuss OPEC quotas because there is no problem regarding the production ceiling in the first quarter of this year. He added that demand for oil is great and that the market will absorb any increase in production in view of the approach of winter. He pointed out that a meeting next March will discuss demand for oil in the second and third quarters of this year. He pointed out that in the future Kuwait will concentrate on refined petroleum products and crude oil, and that it was easier for Kuwait to concentrate on crude oil now.

In reply to a question on the imposition of duties by EC countries on oil exports from the Gulf, he said: The imposition of these duties is unjustified. If the EC countries are imposing taxes on oil for fear of pollution, nuclear pollution is far more dangerous. Therefore, if a tax is imposed on oil, then a bigger tax must be imposed on nuclear energy due to the danger it poses. The minister expressed his belief that patience had to be exercised regarding the imposition of the duties because the consumer would be the great loser.

The minister expects oil prices to increase at the end of this year and the beginning of next year—next January or February—reaching 20-21 dollars per barrel. As for the next two quarters, prices might come down due to lower demand for oil after the end of winter.

Dr. al-Ruqba said: We have begun reconstruction of all the oil installations in a parallel manner. We have put out the fires in the oil fields, and are drilling new wells and repairing the refinary plants and export utilities. This is because when you have production, you should also have a refining and exporting capacity. [passage omitted]

Afterwards, the oil minister will pay an official visit to Hungary in response to an official invitation from its government. He will then leave for Cairo at the head of an official delegation to attend the OPEC meetings.

Airlines Negotiating Sale of War-Damaged Aircraft

LD2511122391 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0920 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 25 November (KUNA)—The managing director and commissioned member of the Kuwaiti Airways Corporation, Ahmad al-Mishari, has announced that the corporation is engaged in international negotiations to sell the wreckage of seven Kuwaiti aircraft destroyed at Baghdad airport. In an interview with AL- QABAS published today, Mishari said that Kuwaiti Airways has reached an agreeement with insurance companies that the wreckage, whose preliminary value is estimated to be 6 million dollars, is owned by the corporation.

During its heinous invasion of Kuwait on 2 August last year, the Iraqi regime seized 15 civilian aircraft parked at the airport. Seven were destroyed in Baghdad and six were transferred to Iran, while two were recovered and delivered through the United Nations.

Mishari pointed out that insurance companies have paid Kuwaiti Airways only 300 million dollars while the insurance value of the aircraft which the corportation lost was 692 million dollars, in addition to 250 miilion dollars for spare parts. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question, he stressed that efforts are still being made by the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry and the Kuwaiti embassy in Iran, as well as other efforts through the United Nations, for the Iranian government's assistance in handing over the six aircraft to the Kuwaiti government. He expressed hope that these efforts, and the efforts made by the insurance companies through the British embassy in Tehran, will successfully advance the process of the delivery of these aircraft. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that Kuwaiti Airways is in the process of revising the terms of an agreement to purchase three giant Boeing 747-400S aircraft. He said that the deal will be signed at the end of this month. He said that the corporation was in the final stage of talks on international financing. [passage ommitted] Regarding the size of the required loan, Mishari said that the aircraft that will be delivered by the end of 1992, 1993 and 1994 will be financed. However, the financing of the aircraft which are expected to be delivered in 1995 will be postponed until a later date. He pointed out that the sum required was in the region of 800 t0 900 million dollars. He explained that the these loans were separate from the government's efforts to borrow five billion dollars. He pointed out that this was the first time the corporation will borrow on international markets.

Defense Minister Outlines Future Military Strategy

LD2511183691 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1548 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 25 Nov (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim said that the land of Kuwait needs two years to clear mines planted by the defeated Iraqi army. He added that this did not mean that the land of Kuwait will be 100 percent free of mines in two years' time. He pointed out that there were mines still exploding in countries which went to war decades ago. He said this in a lecture he delivered today at the Faculty of Trade, Economics, and Political Sciences. [passage omitted—so far 62,000 mines had been cleared;

more than 12,000 tonnes of munitions removed; clearance of mines is an operation that cannot be tackled very quickly).

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah then referred to the defense strategy which Kuwait will pursue in the future and pointed out that this depends on two pillars. The first is the building of a Kuwaiti army that depends on modern technology in weaponry and the creation of a Kuwaiti military man and the expansion of his scientific knowledge in a manner compatible with advanced technology. The second is the security agreements with the fraternal and friendly states, such as the Damascus Declaration and the security accords with the United States and similar accords which Kuwait will sign with Britain and France. The minister pointed out that the security accords with the friendly states do not stipulate the presence of military bases [on Kuwaiti territory], but equipment and weapons which are the property of these states will be warehoused [in Kuwait]. This equipment and weapons will be 100 percent at the disposal of these states. The equipment and weapons will not be used for aggressive purposes by these states, but for the defense of Kuwait in the event an aggression is committed against it. [passage omitted—80 percent of Kuwaiti military installations destroyed by Iraq; Iraq plundered all equipment of the Kuwaiti army] He said Kuwait signed contracts in 1988 for the purchase of F-18 aircraft and that the first batch will be delivered in the first quarter of 1992, as well as the training of the national cadres.

The Kuwiti defense minister then referred to conscription and said that it needs development. [passage omitted—this is in order to be in step with modern technology] He then referred to the group of people serving in the army that have no specific nationalities. He said that some of them did very well, showed bravery in the defense of Kuwait, and participated in the Kuwaiti resistance. These will be rewarded and treated according to what they gave to Kuwait. As for those who betrayed their country, they will be referred to the Kuwaiti judiciary. [passage omitted]

Amir Receives Former UK Prime Minister Thatcher

NC2411113591 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Excerpts] At 1030 today, his highness the amir of Kuwait received Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her accompanying delegation on the occasion of her visit visit to the country in response to an official invitation. His highness the amir conferred on her the Mubarak al-Kabir necklace in appreciation of the role she played before her resignation in the international [words indistinct] against the Iraqi invasion and support for the Liberation war. [passage omitted]

At 1100, his highness received (Vance Los), chairman of the Human Rights Commission, on the occasion on his visit to the country. The under secretry of the Justice Ministry attended the meeting.

At 1215, his highness received the Gulf Cooperation Council states' finance ministers who are in Kuwait for a meeting. Finance Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan and GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah attended the meeting.

French Foreign Trade Minister Arrives for Talks

LD2511120491 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1007 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 25 Nov (KUNA)—Jean-Noel Jeanneney, secretary of State to the French Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade in charge of Foreign Trade, has praised the good relations between Kuwait and France. He said that the future of these relations is bright.

In a statement to KUNA on his arrival here last night on a two-day visit to Kuwait, he expressed confidence in the possible strengthening of cooperation between the two countries in all fields, particularly the economic field. [passage omitted]

Jeanneney will be meeting with the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, and with the ministers of commerce and industry, electricity and water, communications and public works, as well as with the president of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

This evening, he will visit the French trade fair which is being held at the Kuwait International Hotel.

Oman

Information Minister Views Gulf Topics

PM2511113591 Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 20 Nov 91 pp 1, 2

[Report on Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin- Muhammad al-Rawwas press conference in Muscat 19 November]

[Excerpts] Muscat—Information minister 'Abd-'Aziz Bin- Muhammad al-Rawwas yesterday praised the great strides that Oman had made during the last two decades under His Majesty Sultan Qabus's leadership.

He also said there was tremendous rapport between His Majesty and his people.

Al-Rawwas was addressing a press conference yesterday at the Muscat Inter Continental Hotel.

Commenting His majesty's 21st national Day address, he said His Majesty had defined the landmarks of the progress made in the past year and the progress to be made in the coming year.

He revealed that members of the gulf cooperation council had agreed to form a Gulf force estimated at about 100,000 soldiers recruited from all Gulf states.

He said that the force would be decided "not by quota but from Gulf citizens who want to join that force."

Other details had been discussed by the Chiefs of Staff of members states who had met twice in Oman and the plan was now ready to be submitted to the next GCC summit in Kuwait next month, Al- Rawwas said.

The GCC states had earlier asked the Sultanate to prepare a strategic security plan for the region. [passage omitted]

In reply to another question, said the countries of the region have emerged from a "great catastrophe and must draw lessons from this crisis."

"The leaders of the GCC during their last summit in Doha, Qatar, have entrusted His Majesty the Sultan to preside over the Supreme Security Committee to work out a joint security plan to spare the region from another similar catastrophe," he added.

Asked whether the Soviet Union's role has diminished following the recent break up of the country, Al-Rawwas said: "The Soviet Union is a member of the Security Council, a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace conference and we look forward to positive cooperation with it.

"It also addressed the Gulf war positively. The Soviet Union is also a main oil producer and we seek its cooperation in bringing about a fair price for oil for both the consumer and a producer. The Soviet Union is also a neighbor in our backyard."

He said Oman wished to see the Soviet Union and people emerge from their present problems and cooperate positively with the international community.

He said if he were to address the United States President, he would wish him good luck for the work for peace and cooperation. "As His Majesty said on Monday the new world order should be based on cooperation and peace not on confrontation between nations."

"We support the role of the United States who played a major role, and adopted a cohesive stand which is unprecedented in history, with the European community and the international community, towards the aggression which tried to wipe out a sovereign state from the world map," he said, referring to last year's Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

"My message to the American people: We always ask them to look to their roots which are based on freedom and peace for all. We ask them not to apply different yardsticks to different parts of the world. We ask them to have the same yardstick for all."

Describing relations between Yemen and Oman, he said that such relations were deep-rooted and are relations "between two brotherly countries...they are rooted in history...our aim is to develop them for the benefit of the two peoples."

He was commenting on the visit of a high-level delegation from Yemen which ended a visit to Muscat on Monday. [passage omitted]

On differences between the eight Damascus Declaration countries, comprising the six GCC states, Egypt and Syria, he said "differences in viewpoints would lead to better results.

"But let me point out that there are no differences as such, but an exchange of views to define positive and negative effects. To shrug off the negative aspects and march towards the joint action," he said. [passage omitted]

Libyan Armed Forces Official Arrives on Visit

JN2511134291 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the leadership of the Libyan revolution and inspector general of the Armed Forces, arrived in the country this afternoon on an official visit to the Sultanate. He was welcomed by His Excellency Housing Minister Malik Bin-Sulayman al-Ma'mari.

Saudi Arabia

Kingdom Welcomes Washington Venue for Peace Talks

LD2511195491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1821 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, 25 Nov (SPA)—A reliable source, in reply to a question from SPA on the position of the Kingdom (of Saudi Arabia) on the talks due to be held in Washington on 4 December and the invitations to the parties concerned in the Middle East peace conference, said today that out of its constant desire to ensure the success of the efforts made for the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expresses its support for the announcement made by the United States of America on holding the second round of the talks on the fixed date in Washington, and it wishes the participants full success.

Religious Edict Denounces Contacts With Israel

JN2511116391 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Nov 91 p 1

[By AL-JUMHURIYAH London correspondent]

[Text] Clerics, university professors, judges in Saudi Arabia have expressed their resentment for clandestine contacts between the Saudi regime and the Zionist entity and the plotting against the Palestinian case. In a fatwa [religious edict] they sent to 'Abd- al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Baz [top religious authority in Saudi Arabia], a signed copy of which was obtained by AL-JUMHURIYAH, they asserted that making peace with

Israel amounts to a document of recognition and capitulation that gives the Zionist entity further moral and material gains.

These figures stressed that making peace with the Zionist entity is weakness and humiliation that will lead to the continued suffering of the Palestinian people. The religious figures' fatwa urged the prohibition of contracting peace with the Zionist entity. It is to be recalled that Saudi Arabian Ambassador in Washington Bandar Bin-Sultan last Monday met with the heads of Jewish organizations in the United States, when he emphasized to them Saudi Arabia recognizes Israel. [The above item is followed by a box containing the purported photocopy of the signatures]

Fahd Congratulates Egypt on Ghali UN Posting

LD2411141391 Riyadh SPA in English 1221 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 23, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has congratulated President Husni Mubarak of Egypt on election of Egypt's Deputy Premier Dr. Butrus Ghali as the new secretary general of the United Nations.

The Saudi monarch conveyed his greetings to President Mubarak in a telephone call Friday night.

King Fahd expressed hope that Dr. Ghali will perform his mission in a satisfactory manner and positively contribute to realization of peace and security in the world, particularly in the Arab region.

In a similar telephone call Friday night, Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, also congratulated President Mubarak on Dr. Ghali's election as the new secretary general of the United Nations.

Libyan Envoy Delivers Message to Fahd

LD2411210591 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan president [as heard]. The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by Colonel Mustafa al-Karrubi, member of the leadership of the Libyan revolution and inspector-general of the armed forces, when the king received him today at his office in the al-Salam Palace. [Passage omitted on others attending the meeting]

Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi had arrived in Jeddah earlier today. [Passage omitted on arrival at the airport]

Official Source Scorns U.S. Conditions for Ties

JN2611133791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—An official source at the Culture and Information Ministry has ridiculed what has been published by the U.S. paper, THE WASHINGTON POST, and the remarks made by U.S. Department of State spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler to the effect that the United States will continue to enforce all possible sanctions against Iraq as long as President Saddam Husayn is in power.

The source said: It seems that the U.S. White House is now playing the same abortive game that Khomeyni played for eight years and in which he linked halting the war against Iraq to President Saddam Husayn's remaining head of the Iraqi leadership.

The source added: The White House's game, which is similar to Khomeyni's abortive game, indicates that Iran-gate is still alive and that President Bush is immersed in it, not merely informed of it, as he declared then.

The official source said that the U.S. Administration should be advised that the Iraqi people view its conditions for the establishment of relations with Iraq with contempt and disdain, as they did the similar Khomeyni game, and that those whom it calls the Iraqi opposition are cliques of mercenaries and worthless people who do not have any popular credit.

Defense Minister's Nephew Killed, Family Attacked

NC2511172491 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1612 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] A special sources has provided us with the following two urgent reports: [passage indistinct] Gunmen in Sa'dun street near the Sheraton Hotel opened fire at Wa'il Hamad Hasan al-Majid, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid's nephew, killing him instantly. Wa'il's brother, Hazim, and two other persons were wounded in the same attack. The wounded included the son of Sab'awi, the Iraqi president's half-brother who now occupies the post of director of public security.

Two gunmen from the group of former Defense Minister Husayn Kamil attacked 'Ali Hassan al-Majid's family and relatives with Kalashnikovs on hand grenades on the night of 21 November, while they were holding a eulogy ceremony for Wa'il Hasan al-Majid. The son of Hashim Hasan al-Majid and the son of [word indistinct], the Iraqi president's half-brother and current interior minister, were killed in the attack. Over 50 other persons were also wounded and taken to al-Kindi hospital.

Saddam Chairs Meeting for Army Commanders 25 Nov

JN2511163791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, chaired a meeting for a number of military commanders today.

The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the presidential office; and Lieutenant General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, Army chief of staff.

Saddam Signs RCC Decision on Pension Allowances

JN2511193491 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a new decision stipulating that the pension allowance for the wife and children—wives, if there are more than one—or father and mother combined, or individually if one is dead, shall not be less than the family care salary laid out in the social care law. The following is the text of the decision:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Revolution Command Council.

Decision No. 415, dated 18 Jumada al-ula, 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 24 November 1991.

Decision.

Based on Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided:

1. The pension allowance for every wife and her children combined, for each wife if there are more than one, for the children only if there is no wife, and for the parents or one of them if the other is dead or not entitled, shall not be less than the family care salary mentioned in Social Care Law No. 126 of 1980.

2. Any other text contrary to this decision shall not be enforced.

3. Competent ministers and concerned parties shall see to the implementation of this decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC Chairman.

It should be mentioned that the above decision was made at the instruction of leader President Saddam Husayn following a complaint from an Iraqi widow who has a number of sons and daughters. His excellency noted that perhaps other families are suffering from the same problem. This reflects the leader president's concern for citizens' lives, happiness, and dignity, and shows his love for his citizens.

Assembly Endorses Granting Saddam 'People's Medal'

JN2411154291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Nov (INA)—The National Assembly endorsed a bill granting His Excellency President

Saddam Husayn the "People's Medal" in a session it held today under Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

The provisions of the bill sanctioned the introduction of the "People's Medal," and stipulated that it would be granted to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. The medal will have a badge to be worn on the chest. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn will be decorated with the medal in a special session to be held by the National Assembly.

The rationale provided for passing the bill stated that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is the symbol of the great Iraqi people and the embodiment of their dignity, unity, aspirations, and future. The rationale also cited the heroic leading role of his excellency the president, as well as the great jihad he waged in the battles of the people and the nation against their enemies, be they imperialists, Zionists, or agents. This was conspicuously and unmistakably made clear during the Mother of Battles, the bill noted. Furthermore, the preamble of the bill stated that the bill will be legislated in affirmation of the Iraqi people's gratitude, in recognition of the strong feelings National Assembly members have about all these values, and to epitomize the fact that the people's trust was placed in the leader.

The assembly also decided to defer discussion of a study submitted on the sports movement pending the preparation of further study of the issue—a study based on accurate and extensive information—and the preparation of a questionnaire examining the youths' views on all issues that concern them. This is so the data gathered can be completed and a more accurate and comprehensive picture of the issue can be drawn.

National Assembly To Discuss BABIL Concession

JN2511162091 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Baghdad—AL-JUMHURIYAH: The National Assembly today discusses granting a concession to the newspaper BABIL. The vote would set a precedent in the history of the Iraqi press, since it would be the first time an Iraqi paper would have been legalized by representatives of the people.

It should be recalled that newspapers and other publications in Iraq are issued according to the Publications Act of 1968, pending the enactment of the new press and publications law, the drafting of which has been finalized. It is expected to be passed shortly as a law.

Concession Granted

JN2511180791 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Nov 91 p 4

[By Husayn 'Umran]

[Excerpt] The National Assembly last night saw detailed and heated discussions over a plan to establish the Higher Sports and Youths Council and to grant a concession to the newspaper BABIL, which has stopped publication.

Following a three-hour discussion, the National Assembly unanimously approved a plan to establish the Higher Sports and Youths Council, and granted a concession to the newspaper BABIL in accordance with the publications law. This came during a session held under National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and attended by 'Uday Saddam Husayn, chairman of the National Olympic Committee; Anwar Mawlud Dhiban, head of the Iraqi National Students Union; and Mazhar 'Arif, editor-in-chief of BABIL. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Receives French-Iraqi Friendship Chief

JN2511195391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and vice president, today received Jean Monet, secretary general of the French-Iraqi Friendship Society. He valued the organization's role in disclosing facts to French public opinion and explaining the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the unjust economic blockade imposed by the U.S.-imperialist-Zionist alliance against them. He also praised the society for strengthening the voice of humanity and fairness with a view to exposing the aggressive policy against Iraq and lifting the economic blockade against it.

Mr. Monet said he was pleased to visit Iraq, acquaint himself with the situation, and know the feelings of the Iraqi people and their rallying around their wise leadership.

Health Minister Meets UNICEF Official

JN2511194391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id today conferred with Dr. Juzi Morzi [name as received], director of the UNICEF office in Iraq.

They reviewed efforts to implement a number of UNICEF programs in Iraq, including food projects for Iraqi children, primary health care, antidiarrhea campaigns, immunizations, maternity and child care, and control of communicable and respiratory diseases.

Prime Minister Speaks to Scientists 24 Nov

JN2411175191 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has said that the immense care accorded to science and scientists by leader President Saddam Husayn has produced an exemplary experience in construction, and also in the reconstruction of what the enemies of civilization and progress have destroyed.

In remarks he made during a meeting he had with participants in a a seminar on the management of scientific research and its impact on scientific products, he added that Iraq was targeted by the parties of the

30-state aggression to destroy the qualitative leaps the Iraqis have made in all spheres, especially in the scientific and technological fields, thanks to their inventive and creative minds.

The prime minister indicated that the experience gained from the 30-state aggression, the experience in which we take pride among the community of nations, is that Iraq came out of the war with added experience and greater readiness to continue the march of construction and progress, buttressed by its sons' firm willpower, as well as their minds, which have provided tangible evidence showing their creativity.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi affirmed that Baghdad will remain a beacon of science, and a gathering place for scientists, seeking to link its bright present with its glorious past.

U.S. Naval Forces 'Interrogated' Scientific Team

JN2311155391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1511 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Al-Basrah, southern Iraq, 23 Nov (INA)—A scientific research team belonging to the marine science center of al-Basrah University was monitored, interrogated, and provoked by U.S. naval forces during its scientific trip aboard the academic ship, al-Shuruq, in Iraqi territorial waters.

The director of the center told an INA correspondent in al-Basrah that these tyrannical forces acquainted themselves with all the details of the trip, which was aimed at studying pollution and its negative impact on marine environment in Iraqi territorial waters as a result of the 30-state aggression.

It has been learned that the center made four trips to complete its scientific and academic study of the marine environment as well as the oegree of pollution and its impact on fisheries.

'Text' of Ministry Statement on Defused Bombs

JN2511212391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—The Defense Ministry issued a statement today in which it announced that the number of unexploded bombs and other types of ordnance dropped on Iraq by planes of the treacherous 30-state aggression, which were defused by the competent agencies up to 28 October, stands at 516,087.

The statement stressed that the evil aggressors led by America, the enemy of peoples, have used all kinds of sophisticated and fatal weapons. They mobilized large amounts of arms and equipment to destroy Iraq, its vital targets, armed forces, economic pillars, and great people.

Following is the text of the statement:

We would like to tell our steadfast, giant, and honorable Iraqi people in our Arab homeland and the world that the evil aggressors, led by the United States, the enemy of peoples, used all types of sophisticated, fatal tools and mobilized all their weight and equipment, including banned bombs and missiles. This is in order to show the brutality harbored by America and its aggressor allies—including imperialists, Zionists, and agents—against Iraq and its rising civilization. This civilization was engineered and built together with his struggling people by mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn, the symbol of great Iraq, may God preserve him, and which was exposed by the epic of the eternal Mother of Battles. The number of unexploded bombs dropped by planes of the 30-state aggression as well as the unexploded missiles, which were dealt with by all our specialized units in Iraq, led by the expert men of the explosive-disposal units, totalled 516,087 up to 28 October 1991. These bombs were used to destroy Iraq and its vital targets, its armed forces, and the economic pillars of its great people, whose giant revolution and whose rallying around the symbol of their strength and loftiness, leader President Saddam Husayn, frightened the aggressors.

Imagine, honorable people everywhere, the scale of damage they had planned to undermine and destroy Iraq. Let us tell them this: Chances are that our striving, patient, and aware people, led by our leader and the symbol of our dignity His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, will not be let down. The people have sacrificed precious and valuable possessions for the sake of dignity and national sovereignty in the cause of lofty principles. Victory shall always be the fate of those who have right on their side—the believing men of Iraq.

The Iraqis will be patient and struggle behind their great leader His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, so that they may live in dignity and pride and break the unjust economic blockade imposed on them; and so that they abort all the vicious conspiracies led by world Zionism and its malleable tool, the United States and its aggressive allies, who are bent on undermining Iraq's unity and national sovereignty.

Prime Minister Urges Industrial Sector Promotion

JN2511174791 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has said that promoting the industrial sector to secure the basic needs of citizens and to support the national economy is a priority in the coming stage. The prime minister stressed the importance of concerted efforts to make qualitative leaps in the industrial sector while chairing a meeting attended by Industry and Minerals Minister 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj, Presidential Office Secretary Dr. Khalil al-Ma'muri, and a number of specialists. This should help strengthen the national economy and break the unjust economic blockade against Iraq, he noted.

Participants in the meeting discussed continuing the quantitative and qualitative growth of industrial production in the current stage, relying on our own capabilities and

available resources, and giving priority to factories producing items that directly affect the citizens' lives. They also discussed future prospects for promoting the industrial sector.

Agricultural Damage Described at FAO Meeting

JN2511133291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1222 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh has called on representatives of 160 countries taking part in the 26th conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] in Italy, to sincerely work for lifting the unjust economic blockade on Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the minister said that in its speech before the conference, the Iraqi delegation explained the grave damage to the agriculture sector as a result of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression against Iraq. In his speech, the minister explained that the planting of grain dropped by more than 50 percent; poultry production reduced by 95 percent; and that 88 percent of the dams, irrigation networks, and bridges that link agricultural areas with villages had been damaged, in addition to extensive pollution of the agricultural environment.

'Abd-al-Wahhab stressed that the evil aggression against Iraq had gravely affected the agricultural economic development process, which constitutes 75 percent of total local agricultural produce, in addition to putting out of order a large amount of machinery and agricultural equipment due to the great shortage of spare parts and machinery in addition to an acute shortage of seeds, insecticides, and fertilizers.

Popular Forces Conference Urges Blockade's End

JN2511164891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—The Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference has urged the masses of the Arab nation and parties, movements, unions, and personalities in the Arab homeland and the diaspora, to designate 2 December 1992 as an Arab day for sacred indignation against the evil murderers who want to extinguish the torch of illumination in leader Saddam Husayn's Iraq.

The secretariat urged these forces to turn the slogan "Lift the Blockade Imposed on Iraq" into the focus of the Arab nation's daily struggle and jihad.

Addressing Arab popular forces in a statement issued here today, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, the secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference, said: Your support for Arab Iraq represents support for truth, justice, and humanity, and the rejection of imperialist-Zionist violence and tyranny and the deep-seated Zionist rancor.

The statement says that since the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution 661 on 6 August 1990, subsequent resolutions were issued in record time to impose a land, sea, and air blockade on Iraq, under the guise of international legitimacy and the new U.S. world order.

The statement adds: The real motives behind the issuance of these unjust U.S. resolutions were later exposed to be ones seeking the destruction of Iraq's huge military, economic, and scientific capabilities; curbing the comprehensive awakening in Iraq; and the firm basis of Arab liberation, democratic, and progressive revolution. Likewise, the U.S.-Zionist scheme is aimed at entrenching the occupation of Arab Palestine, perpetuating the occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, and bolstering U.S. hegemony over the riches of the region and looting its natural resources, most importantly of which is oil. This scheme is also aimed at binding the peoples of the region by the shackles of agreements of slavery, which have turned some of the Arabian Gulf shaykhdoms into present and future U.S. protectorates.

The statement adds: Despite the cease-fire concluding the chapter of the military aggression on 28 February 1991, the Bush administration continues to manipulate the UN Security Council to impose more iniquitous terms on the Iraqi people in order to impose starvation and poverty on them, to spread disease, and to deprive their children of milk and the sick of medicine. Resolutions 706 and 712 constitute glaring examples of the exploitation of human suffering so as to dictate impractical arrangements aimed at imposing custodianship, mortgaging Iraqi oil revenues for long periods, interfering in internal affairs, and seizing the legitimate Iraqi government's jurisdiction contrary to the UN Charter.

The statement stresses that Iraq has sincerely cooperated with Resolution 687 despite the injustice, discrimination, and revenge it involved. Iraq also facilitated the missions of the UN teams so that the unjust economic blockade against its steadfast people may be lifted. There is no longer any legal or moral justification for the prolonging of the blockade.

The statement says that the Bush administration and its Western allies repeatedly try to fabricate crises and propagate lies to mislead world public opinion into thinking that Iraq is still not abiding by the Security Council resolutions, and, consequently, justify the continuation of the inhumane blockade against the country.

Addressing the Arab forces, the statement says: You realize, dear brothers, that the Security Council's Special Committee will meet on 2 December to review the Iraqi Government's position on the relevant Security Council's resolutions to decide whether to lift or ease the embargo against Iraq, pursuant to Paragraph 21 of Resolution 687. This paragraph provides for a review of the situation every 60 days, despite the fact that Paragraph 20 of the same resolution indicates that foodstuffs, medical supplies, and other essential material needed by the Iraqi people are not covered by the embargo.

The statement adds: Let us turn the 2 December Security Council meeting into a major occasion for us to step up our struggle and lift the unjust blockade against Iraq to

save its children, women, and elderly from the disaster of starvation and disease. Let us intensify our demands, through all individual and collective means of expression, to put an end to the agony of 18 million Iraqis, victims of the sadist, fascist Bush and his small agents in the barbaric 30-state alliance. Stage demonstrations and take to the streets and squares in your countries to condemn the blockade. Call on your governments to cooperate with Iraq, support its steadfastness, and break the blockade in practice. Send protest letters to UN missions and humanitarian organizations. Send cables to the Security Council and its permanent member states. Demonstrate in front of the Security Council building on 2 December. Go on a hunger strike on 2 December in solidarity with the Iraqis, and donate anything that may support their steadfastness. Yell in the faces of the war criminals: No to the continuation of the unjust blockade against Iraq; no to slow death and slaughter of an ancient people; and no to the violation of the Iraqi human rights.

The General Secretariat expresses confidence that the nation will prevail at the end of its statement. Our confidence in the victory of our immortal nation, it says, is unlimited, no matter how far tyrants and enemies of humanity go.

We also trust that the Iraq of jihad and construction is towering and standing fast, stronger that all spites and conspiracies, thanks to their awareness, vigilance, unity, high sacrifices, and loyalty to their experienced historic leadership.

Victory for Iraq of Arabism and Islam.

Glory to the courageous knight Saddam Husayn.

'Responsible Source'—Many POW's Still in Iran

JN2511185991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1742 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Nov (INA)—Iranian television declared on Friday evening, 22 November 1991, that the Iranian authorities released 421 Iraqi prisoners, and that those were the last prisoners wishing to return to Iraq. A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry stated the following to INA:

1. We welcome the released Iraqi prisoners, who returned to the homeland on Friday, 22 November 1991.

We would like to reiterate that there are no Iranian prisoners in Iraq. Iraq released all registered and unregistered Iranian POW's as of 17 August 1990, proceeding from the principle of goodwill to fully implement its commitments to the prisoners of war [POW's] as stipulated by UN Security Council Resolutions 598 as well as Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949. This was done under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. No Iranian POW's are left in Iraq. Iran was informed of this through diplomatic channels.

2. The 421 Iraqi prisoners recently released by Iran are only a drop in an ocean of thousands of registered and unregistered Iraqi prisoners which Iran insists on keeping. Also, those returning prisoners are privates and noncommissioned officers, while Iran continues to hold hundreds of officers, pilots, and physicians.

3. The international procedures, which were observed in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 1949, are that the ICRC will register all the POW's, visit them, and convey their messages to their families. Also, the ICRC should determine whether each POW desires to return to his homeland or not. The parties to the dispute cannot declare that thousands of POW's do not want to return to their homeland, without allowing the ICRC to visit them as a witnesses.

Therefore, Iran's announcement that the 421 returnees are the last ones who want to return is unfounded, and also conflicts with international humanitarian law. If Iran was serious about what it said, it would have asked that the ICRC send its representatives to the POW camps to meet each POW and determine if he wants to return to his homeland.

4. The release of Iranian POW's by Iraq took place under the supervision of the ICRC and in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. Iran is required to follow suit and fully abide by the rules of humanitarian law and the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention.

If Iran is serious in its intention to release and return the Iraqi POW's, it should immediately begin registering the POW's who have not yet been registered with the ICRC mission, should allow the ICRC mission to visit them all whether they are actually registered or not, should convey messages to their families and vice versa, should explore their desire to return, and should immediately return them to their homeland, Iraq, in implementation of Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949.

5. At the same time, the Iraqi authorities stress their readiness to hold a meeting of the joint technical committee to investigate the fate of missing Iranians and Iraqis. The committee consists of representatives of Iraq, Iran, and the ICRC.

Bodies of Iranian Troops Found in Mass Graves

NC2411165391 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] The following is an urgent and important appeal to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], the international relief bodies and organizations, Amnesty International, and the Iranian Red Crescent Society [IRCS]: A mass grave was discovered containing the bodies of Iranian military personnel, two of whom were identified as Air Force Captain (Kazim Zarif Khadim) and (Majid Sadiq Asfahani), on 19 November 1991.

The mass grave is located in the Irbil camp. Eight bodies so far have been identified as Iranian military personnel, who most likely were Air Force pilots. The grave was discovered by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan office in Irbil.

For humanitarian reasons, we call on the ICRC to adopt the necessary measures on this matter, whether unilaterally or in coordination with the IRCS, to receive the bodies and return them to their families.

It is likely that dozens of mass graves could be found in the Irbil camp, according to our information. Therefore, we urge the ICRC, the relief bodies, and Amnesty International to offer the appropriate help on this.

Talabani Message to UN Envoy on Kurdish Situation

NC2511211391 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1603 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] In response to the message His Highness Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan sent to Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, asking him to visit Baghdad, brother Jalal Talabani has sent the following reply:

His Highness Sadruddin Aga Khan.

Your Highness. Many thanks [words indistinct]. I am sorry I am unable to go to Baghdad to have the honor of meeting with you. I wish to meet with you and I consider such a meeting necessary. I have no doubt that Your Highness realizes that it is impossible for me to visit Baghdad at present because of political, security, and personal circumstances.

However, I seize this opportunity to present to you the following:

1. The government's premeditated, planned, and studied acts of aggression have caused the displacement of tens of thousands of families from the cities of Klar and Irbil and from the villages in Irbil plain, as well as the village of Kulajo, near Klar.

2. The fact that the government forces are in an offensive and aggressive state at the approaches to the city of Irbil threatens a renewed displacement of tens of thousands of Kurdish families.

3. The daily military skirmishes in the area of Chamchamal threaten the displacement and evacuation of tens of thousands of the families of the area of Chamchamal and the areas around it.

4. Continuous Iraqi military acts of aggression have caused the destruction and evacuation of scores of the newly rebuilt Kurdish villages.

5. The military situation is explosive and could erupt. This is because the Iraqi Government has drawn up an aggressive military plan as evident in the appointment of butcher 'Ali Hasan al-Kimyawi [al-Majid; al-Kimyawi is a play on the word for chemist] as defense minister. This butcher is directly responsible for the chemical war and the Anfal crimes in which approximately 200,000 women, children, men, and elderly people were lost.

Your Highness the prince. To remedy the situation, I propose the following:

1. That the military forces be withdrawn to their usual military barracks and that the military aggressive state of alert near the city of Irbil, Chamchamal, Kifri, and Klar be ended.

2. That the Iraqi Government be compelled to allow the families that have been displaced from the Karkuk Governorate to return to their towns, villages, and homes.

3. That the United Nations supervise the return of the displaced persons to Karkuk, Irbil, Chamchamal, Kifri, and Klar.

4. That the Iraqi Government be compelled to lift the economic blockade. Should the Iraqi Government reject these just demands, I believe that it would be necessary for the UN Security Council to approve our previous proposals that the Iraqi forces be withdrawn from the area of Karkuk and that the United Nations supervise the extraction of oil from Kurdistan's oilfields in Karkuk and Zummar, sell the oil, and spend the revenues on the purchase of food and medical supplies for the Iraqi people—Arab and Kurds—in the north, the south, and the center, in implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 706, 712, and 688.

Your Highness the prince: I must notify Your Highness of the tragic situation of our brother Shiites in southern Iraq, especially in al-Ahwar. Urgent international action must be taken to save them from their expected annihilation. We look to your honorable person, in your capacity as a noble humanitarian personality, to make the necessary efforts.

Please accept my esteemed respect.

[Signed] Your faithful brother, Jalal Talabani.

Renewed Fighting Near Irbil, Karkuk, Marshlands

Clashes Break Out 22 Nov

NC2311142091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Kurdish fighters in northern Iraq have revealed that renewed fighting with the tyrant's army broke out last night. In a statement issued in London, the Kurdistan Front said that Kurdish fighters repulsed the tyrant's security brigade attack on a village near Irbil at 1800 on Friday. The tyrant forces withdrew after losing an armored vehicle, and three personnel were captured. The statement said that a company of the tyrant's forces defected to the Kurdish side. Attacks were also reported on a Karkuk suburb and Kifri village, south of Karkuk yesterday. Kurdish fighters repulsed both attacks and the regime's forces withdrew to bases in Karkuk, the statement noted.

Details of Fighting, Regime Losses

NC2311192091 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] 'Ali Hasan al-Majid sent a battalion of his forces to capture the headquarters of the Kurdistan Front in the Irbil area on 20 November. The enemy force was utterly defeated after sustaining heavy losses, as we previously announced.

The same defeated force attacked an area near Kifri on 21 November. The Kurdistan Front forces, with artillery support from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], intercepted the enemy force and settled the battle in our favor. The enemy was forced to retreat and flee by 1500 that day. Fifteen enemy troops were killed and two others were captured. Six hero peshmerga were slightly injured.

An enemy infantry battalion, backed up by 12 tanks and four helicopters, attacked the centers of the Kurdistan Front peshmerga in (?Shuwanah) in a bid to occupy them at 1200 on 21 November. The enemy force was intercepted by the peshmerga of the Kurdish Socialist Party. After a grinding five-hour battle, our hero peshmerga succeeded in inflicting grave losses on the enemy troops, forcing them to flee after they sustained the following losses:

1. 12 soldiers were killed;
2. Commander of the attacking force Staff Brigadier General Isma'il was killed;
3. Lieutenant Colonel Khalil Jasim Salih was captured;
4. The enemy suffered material losses.

Two hero peshmergas were slightly injured.

At 0500 on 22 November, the enemy forces, backed up by long-range artillery, attacked [name indistinct]. A hero force from PUK's second and third battalions repulsed the attack and forced the enemy to retreat and flee after killing more than 70 enemy troops.

'Slaughter' in Marshlands Reported

NC2411155291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] The ostracized regime of Saddam Husayn is continuing its bestial crimes against the oppressed Iraqi people, particularly in the marshlands. The regime is trying to drive the population out of the marshlands in order to empty that area. Iraqi sources said that the evacuation is being carried out by special forces that report directly to Saddam during the night. It is a secret operation in which the citizens are being transported in groups to unknown places. The sources say that the marshlands' citizens suffer from food and medicine shortages due to the regime's continued economic siege and heavy artillery shelling.

In another development, Saddam's forces have built a new earth barricade between al-Salam and (al-Wardiyah) to separate the marshlands from the dry land and tighten the siege on these deprived areas.

The sources said that the slaughter of innocent Iraqis in the marshlands is continuing and that the regime's forces are escalating their artillery, aerial, and gunboat bombardment. Hundreds of children, women, and elderly have become victims of this barbaric shelling.

Meanwhile, the sources said that a group of the defeated tyrant's forces have retreated because of attacks by the Iraqi popular forces in the marshlands and have left behind enormous amounts of weapons and military hardware. The popular forces in the marshlands also succeeded in downing three helicopters, two of which fell near the airport and the third in (al-Suhayn).

A group of the popular forces last week carried out the just punishment against Najm Ramadan Lutfi, a member of the second intelligence branch, whose headquarters is in the al-Mansur part of al-Basra.

Al-Sulaymaniyah Demonstration on Regime Atrocities

NC2411173091 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Well over 250,000 citizens took part in a peaceful demonstration, which was staged from the al-Sulaymaniyah city center and headed toward the UN Commission for Refugees, at 0900 today. The demonstrators submitted a memorandum asking the commission to protect them against any atrocities by the Iraqi regime—atrocities that will trigger a mass exodus similar to that which occurred this year.

The demonstrators urged the UN commission to refer their problem to the United Nations and the Security Council for discussion and for finding a just solution to it. [words indistinct]

Shamir Notes 'Unprecedented' Chill in U.S. Ties

TA2611092991 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Nov 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by Moti Bassok, Avi Bnayahu, and New York correspondent Qeren Neubach]

[Excerpt] In its response to the U.S. invitation to Washington for the next round of bilateral talks, Israel will emphasize that these talks should deal only with procedural matters and the venue and agenda for future talks. Israel will also insist that its talks with the Arabs be conducted without the participation of a third party. This position was consolidated last night at the end of the consultations Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir held with some ministers in Jerusalem.

It emerges from Shamir's briefing to the ministers that the United States is treating Israel with a degree of chilliness that is unprecedented in the history of the two countries' relations. It is not making do with merely serving as an honest broker, but is trying to dictate to Israel matters of substance as well. Israel will be prepared to listen to U.S. proposals on substance, but will refuse to accept dictates. In any case, Israel will demand that the talks in Washington, and later in another, closer location in the Middle East, not be held simultaneously with the various countries and that progress in the talks with one country will be in no way to connected to progress in the talks with another. Jerusalem also has not accepted the standing U.S. tendency to separate the Jordanian delegation from the Palestinian delegation, in contravention of all the earlier agreements. It is feared that Washington will ultimately allow the advisers of the Palestinian delegation, who are identified with the PLO, to enter the United States. [passage omitted]

Shamir Reaffirms Commitment to Peace Process

TA2611131691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that Israel is committed to continue the peace process in the Middle East. Mr. Shamir made these remarks in a meeting with Tom Bradley, the mayor of Los Angeles, who is currently visiting Israel. The prime minister noted the successful opening of the political process in Madrid and stressed Israel's role in this success.

Answer to U.S. Deferred To Show 'Annoyance'

TA2511173191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan in front of the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] The meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Foreign Minister David Levi, and Defense Minister Moshe Arens ended a short while ago without results. It actually may not have been meant to result in anything. The trio sat together for less than an hour: They met at 1800, Foreign Minister Levi left at 1845, and Defense Minister Arens left about two minutes ago. Mr. Shamir is still in his office. The motto is: There is no rush. We are not operating according to the U.S. stopwatch; we will act according to the tempo that will be set here in the Prime Minister's Office. The reply will be in the affirmative, but it will come at a later date.

In fact, the consultations here in the Prime Minister's Office began this morning, when Mr. Shamir conferred separately with his associate, Justice Minister Dan Meridor, and with Industry and Trade Minister Moshe Nisim. Later, the defense minister and the foreign minister came here at 1800 this evening.

It was clear even before this tripartite consultation began that Israel will not provide Secretary of State Baker with a reply today, as it was required to do in the invitation that arrived last week. The idea is to express annoyance with what people here openly described as a U.S. ultimatum. The Israeli reply will be worked out in the Inner Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, and the positive answer will evidently be accompanied by three central reservations: no simultaneous negotiations with the three Arab delegations; the deliberations in Washington will deal with procedural matters only; and the next phase of the talks will be shifted to the region quickly. This is what Israel wants.

Israel is also meanwhile anticipating President Bush's response to Prime Minister Shamir's request that he reconsider the U.S. decision to summon the parties to Washington.

To sum up, consultations were held and many more are sure to follow both tomorrow and when the Inner Cabinet convenes on Wednesday. There are no decisions as yet, though.

U.S. To Declare Support for Talks in Region

TA2611125291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Officials in Jerusalem believe that the United States will announce that it supports moving the bilateral negotiations to the Middle East after the forthcoming round of talks in Washington; however, the officials estimate that such a declaration will not be binding. The cabinet will convene tomorrow to discuss the U.S. invitations. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

No consultations are being held today in the Prime Minister's Office. Shamir, his office staff reported, basically concluded the discussions yesterday and will bring his proposals before the cabinet tomorrow. There has been no real change in Israel's position. The cabinet is expected to accept the prime minister's recommendation to say yes to the Americans and attach a number of conditions.

Sources in Jerusalem today assessed that the United States will at least partly acquiesce to the Israeli conditions. Israel is demanding that the talks move to the

Middle East after one round of talks in Washington. Political circles estimated today that the United States will declare that it supports transferring the talks to the region after Washington; however, such a declaration will not be of a binding nature. In other words, the Americans will issue a declaration, but will not make moving the talks to the Middle East a precondition for their continuation.

As for Israel's demands regarding the subject of the talks, some kind of understanding is also possible. According to the estimates, much of the first round of talks will be dedicated to procedural issues anyway and little time will be left to discuss substance. The plans call for between only two and three meetings in Washington, and therefore the talks may focus on procedural issues even without an explicit U.S. declaration.

Israel will give its answer to the Americans after tomorrow's cabinet session. It will still be a positive answer although the yes will not be a very enthusiastic one.

U.S. Said To Prefer Mediation to Direct Talks

TA2511121791 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
25 Nov 91 p 9

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "The Disappointing Pupil and the Stern Teacher"]

[Excerpts] The United States has no desire whatsoever to see sincere, direct negotiations take place between Israel and its Arab neighbors and it has been acting relentlessly to torpedo them. These, in any case, are the apprehensions that have been troubling the Israeli Government's upper echelons in recent months. The course of events following the Madrid conference, and particularly last weekend's tactic by which the United States resolved the controversy over the venue of the bilateral talks, turned the apprehensions into a conviction which requires no further proof.

The United States did nothing to persuade the Arabs to maintain either overt or clandestine contacts with Israel on the venue for the talks after the Madrid conference. On the contrary, it said it would allot the parties limited time to find a solution, and if they should fail, it would propose solutions of its own. The United States was in fact signaling to the Arabs that it saw no need for them to discuss the issue with Israel by making this statement.

Beyond the smarting insult the prime minister was dealt in Washington, the very selection of Washington, of all places, as the site for the talks served merely to heighten the mistrust of the United States' intentions. In their own capital, the Americans will have complete control over the negotiations—from deciding on technical arrangements and manipulating the media and Congress for their ends, to the capability to listen to and eavesdrop on every word said in private and, subsequently, to steer the events accordingly.

From the administration's point of view, Washington has another tactical edge in that it provides the optimal arena for the fullest exploitation of the political advantages inherent in the Middle East negotiations. It is true that, at present, Bush is obliged to devote a considerable part of his attention to domestic matters, but this does not dash his desire to chalk up more achievements in foreign affairs. The president will have a chance to stage dramatic interventions at any given moment if the talks are held in Washington.

In Washington, thousands of reporters will pounce on the talks; the peace process will become "local news." Talks held in Cyprus or Rhodes would have attracted a handful of experts and would have soon become one of those foreign stories so fascinating to THE NEW YORK TIMES and so boring for the average American.

To support their assertion that the Americans are unenthusiastic about direct talks, ministers and aides cite history which, in their opinion, abounds with instances in which the United States preferred mediation over direct talks. They dwell particularly on the United States' tardy and faltering reaction to President al-Sadat's journey to Jerusalem in 1977 and to the launching of a direct Israeli-Egyptian channel of communication. [passage omitted]

The reading of history is a subjective matter, and the Likud leaders have always excelled at creative—even imaginative—interpretations of past events. It is true that in 1977, the United States would have preferred a process conducted under its control to direct contacts between the parties (Although American intervention was needed to rescue the Israeli-Egyptian process from failure at Camp David a year later.) Yet the Likud is unwilling to comprehend the main lesson of this affair: Only an audacious and imaginative policy is capable of deflecting the United States from the course it prefers. Al-Sadat realized that and was therefore successful. Shamir will not and cannot comprehend it and is therefore doomed to trail in the Americans' footsteps.

In 1989, the unity government managed to dictate the agenda of the political process thanks to the idea of elections in the territories, which it had invented. It lost the momentum because Shamir decided he was not ready to pay the price of implementing the idea.

The Israeli Government is declaring that there is no point in holding direct talks with it by clearly stating that it will not return territories. The government's rejectionist and unimaginative policy, which turns every molehill into a mountain, leaves the United States with two alternatives: It can either adopt a stance of nonintervention and indifference or take coercive, determinative action. Shamir himself invited the administration's hostile and insulting attitude by his behavior.

If the Israeli Government wanted to be rid of the oppressive American presence, it should have shown initiative—but real initiative, not a lot of gibberish about the relocation of refugees or "peace for peace." The

initiative should speak about one of the two subjects most material to the process: either territories or Palestinian rights. Above all, it should break taboos, tear down barriers, and mark a better path.

The present Israeli Government is incapable of launching such an initiative; it is even incapable of thinking about it. Therefore, it is doomed to stand in the corner, grumbling and griping, and to get an occasional slap from the stern teacher who ran out of patience a long time ago.

Arens—World Forgot Missing Israeli Servicemen

TA2611055291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has accused the world of forgetting Ron Arad, the Israel Air Force navigator who is being held prisoner by Iran or its surrogates in Lebanon. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked Arens if the two-track approach being pursued by the UN secretary general did not pose a risk that the Israeli missing personnel would be forgotten once again as soon as the Western hostages in Lebanon had been released:

[Begin recording] [Arens] Israeli servicemen have been forgotten for many years. That was the big danger. At the present time, we are in the process of having the secretary general of the United Nations deal with Ron Arad and with our missing servicemen, and we are therefore hopeful that we will have positive results.

[Katzenell] If the Western hostages are released, is there not the danger that then the whole matter will drop from the headlines, even if Israel has made gestures and released repeatedly numbers of Shiite prisoners?

[Arens] We will do whatever we can to make sure that Ron Arad is not forgotten. [end recording]

On another issue, Defense Minister Arens expressed regret over the killing of three Lebanese Army soldiers in the south yesterday. Arens attributed their deaths to the failure of the Lebanese Army to stop Hizballah attacks on the security zone. The defense minister told reporters it was virtually impossible, given the current terror campaign in the south, to distinguish between Lebanese Army soldiers and Hizballah terrorists.

UN Negotiator Denies Hostage Talks To End

TA2611124191 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Nov 91 pp 1, 13

[Report by Tzadoq Yehezqeli from New York and by Goga Kogan]

[Text] "I am committed to doing everything to solve the problem of the Israeli MIA's, just as much as I am committed to the release of Western hostages and Lebanese detainees."

This statement was made yesterday by Giandomenico Picco, the UN secretary general's aide and the person in charge of the negotiations for the release of hostages in Lebanon, to YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

The impression from the interview was that he had not yet received firm information about Israeli navigator Ron Arad.

The Italian official, who usually observes the discretion required from every diplomat involved in such sensitive negotiations, said: "The impression is that everything is going to end in a few days, but this is not so. Sutherland and Waite announced that Cicippio would be released by the end of the week, and this did not happen. I did not want us to get carried away."

In reaction to my comment that Israel fears that the Israeli MIA's have been neglected, Picco said: "This is not the case as far as I and the secretary general are concerned. There is no difference. The secretary general and I want you to know that we are committed to solving all three problems (the Israeli MIA's, the Western hostages, and Lebanese detainees) with the same degree of dedication."

Asked whether he was as optimistic about receiving information about the Israeli MIA's in Lebanon as he was regarding the release of the Western hostages, Picco replied: "I cannot answer that. It is not the same thing. These are complicated negotiations because there are all sorts of signals here, and some of them are contradictory."

Regarding Israeli navigator Ron Arad, Picco said: "I cannot tell you anything about Arad. His case is the cornerstone of the entire negotiations on the matter...."

Goga Kogan reports that the Lebanese radio station that belongs to Walid Junblatt's Druze party reported yesterday afternoon that Israel had released prisoners from al-Khiyam, among them "an important personality" who is probably not Shaykh 'Ubayd.

The report came up as the first item on a newscast, but the names of the alleged released prisoners were not mentioned. This report has not been confirmed by any official Israeli source.

Arens on Elections, POW Release, Gaza Council

TA2511183091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Eli Nisan in the Knesset on 25 November—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Nisan] Mr. Arens, in your capacity as chairman of the Likud Secretariat, I would like to ask you: Is the Likud today prepared for early elections if Israel's relations with the United States reach a crisis?

[Arens] I do not think there is any relation whatsoever. However, if what you are asking me is whether we are prepared, the answer is yes, but this is not at all related to

Israel's relations with the United States. This is a domestic affair. As you know, a decision to bring elections forward requires a majority in the Knesset. Hence, most Knesset factions must want to bring the elections forward, but I am not at all certain that this is the case.

[Nisan] Mr. Arens, do you think the United States is trying to impose a settlement in the region while ignoring Israel's part in the solution of the problems of the region?

[Arens] I would not go as far as that or agree with the description that the United States is ignoring Israel's existence or interests in the region. No, this is incompatible with the close relations that exist between us and the United States. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1800 GMT on 25 November adds that, speaking to reporters at the end of a meeting with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Arens said "he did not believe the U.S. Administration had deliberately slighted Prime Minister Shamir. Nor did Arens agree that the American request for an Israeli reply by today was an ultimatum or a take-it-or-leave-it offer." In a recorded passage, Arens says: "No, I don't think so at all and I'm sure you'll see in due time that this is not a take- it-or-leave-it proposition; that the United States fully understands that when it comes to Israel's basic interests we will do whatever we feel we want to do at a time when we want to do it."]

[Nisan] Uri Lubrani met yesterday with the UN representative negotiating the hostage release. Meanwhile, the leader of Hizballah has said that his organization is not holding Ron Arad. Where do you think the key is?

[Arens] If I knew where the key was I would grab it and release Ron Arad.

[Nisan] Where does the solution lie?

[Arens] We know that two capitals, Tehran and Damascus, can secure his release—definitely if working in conjunction, but even separately they may very well be able to do that.

[Nisan] Is there any news following the meeting yesterday between Uri Lubrani and the UN representative?

[Arens] I have no news on this issue at the moment.

[Nisan] Fayiz Abu-Rahmah left for Cairo for consultations concerning the establishment of a self-government in Gaza. Does this represent a new Israeli policy concerning Gaza?

[Arens] I did not send Fayiz Abu-Rahmah anywhere. For quite some time we have been trying to bring about the establishment of a municipal committee made up of inhabitants of Gaza to run the city's municipal affairs.

[Nisan] Were the Israeli authorities aware of his trip?

[Arens] We knew about it, but we did not send him.

On Hizballah; No Comment on PRC Trip

TA2511201891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Labor's Knesset Member Mordekhay Gur said today at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel should go all out and operate beyond the security zone in order to destroy Hizballah's infrastructure. Defense Minister Moshe Arens appeared before the committee today. Our Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir reports:

[Begin recording] [Ahime'ir] The committee members were told that the Lebanese Government encourages terror activities in south Lebanon and, as is known, carries out Syria's will. The Israeli Army has stepped up its operations against Hizballah, the defense minister said, but it is not easy to impair its activities.

[Arens] There is no attempt by anybody in Lebanon to curb or restrain Hizballah's terrorist and murderous activities. [passage omitted]

[Ahime'ir] On an altogether different, albeit fascinating, issue Mr. Arens refused to elaborate. Mr. Arens, how was it in China?

[Arens] You will have to excuse me if I do not answer that question.

[Ahime'ir] Why not? After all, a picture of you has been published.

[Arens] You will have to understand if I still refuse to answer that question. [end recording]

PRC, Israeli Representatives' Status Upgraded

TA2611095591 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Nov 91 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] The PRC recently gave its consent to grant diplomatic status to Israel's representatives in Beijing. Israel simultaneously agreed to grant a similar status to the PRC's representatives in Israel. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem noted that the Chinese decision reflects that country's ongoing trend of raising the level of ties with Jerusalem.

Israel's representatives in the PRC are known as members of its academic representation. Even though some of them are diplomats, to date they have not been accorded any official status. China's representatives in Israel have been operating as their country's Tourism Ministry representatives. Beijing has begun to warm its relations with Israel at a rate of speed that is uncharacteristic of official China in view of the progress in the peace process and the fact that the PRC is the only member of the Security Council with no ties to Jerusalem.

Reopening of Seoul Embassy, Expanded Trade Viewed

TA2411102391 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Text] South Korea has decided to permit Israel to reopen its embassy in Seoul. Jerusalem expects an official announcement on the above in the next few weeks.

Western sources have reported that ROK officials reported withdrawing their opposition to the reopening of the embassy during meetings with U.S. congressmen. Israel welcomed the report, as Jerusalem has been trying for some years, without success, to persuade the ROK to permit the reopening of the embassy there.

The embassy was closed in July 1978 on orders from then Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan for budgetary reasons. This decision has been described in recent years as a grave political error, mainly in view of South Korea's development and its emergence as a major economic superpower in southeast Asia.

Israel maintained diplomatic contacts with Seoul through the embassy in Tokyo after the embassy closed. The Koreans turned down repeated requests to permit the reopening of the embassy, mainly due to pressure from the Arab countries.

The argument was that such consent would automatically require a similar agreement to allow the PLO to open an embassy in Seoul. Lately, however, Seoul's policy on the matter has changed in view of the international thawing of relations with Israel and the desire in the ROK to improve its standing with the U.S. Congress.

In 1990 Israel exported goods to South Korea to the tune of $52 million, while imports from South Korea amounted to $61 million.

The larger companies in South Korea continue to succumb to the Arab boycott, Jerusalem sources reported last night, but with the resumption of overt relations between the two countries and in view of the gradual lifting of that boycott by Japanese companies, this trend is expected to shrink and bilateral trade relations are expected to grow substantially.

Levi Congratulates Ghali on New UN Post

TA2611111991 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 Nov 91 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Israel yesterday issued its first official congratulations to Egypt's Butrus Ghali for his election as the next UN secretary general. An oral message to this effect from Foreign Minister David Levi was transmitted to Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni via Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Hadas.

Jerusalem sources have reported that a written message will also be delivered to Ghali in the next few days, following coordination between Levi and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The sources added that Israel will join the countries supporting Ghali in the upcoming General Assembly vote.

The congratulations were conveyed after senior officials recently criticized a Shamir statement against the appointment. They said Shamir's criticism was disadvantageous since Ghali's election is a fait accompli. Interviewed on television on Friday after last week's unsuccessful events in Washington, Shamir said that Israel's standing in the United Nations has never been good and that Ghali's election simply added to this.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 26 November carries an ITIM report on page 2 adding that "Knesset Member Shim'on Peres, Labor Party chairman, today dispatched a congratulatory cable to Butrus Ghali" in which he wished him success and noted that he is "convinced Ghali will fulfill the job in the best way for all the sides." Peres also expressed the hope that "Butrus Ghali will make a positive contribution toward the establishment of a comprehensive peace between Israel and all the Arab countries."]

Attorney General Decides on 'Ashrawi, Settlement

Announces Not To Try 'Ashrawi

TA2511194091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Attorney General Yosef Harish this evening decided not to bring Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi to trial because of her meetings with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Our legal affairs correspondent Shlomo Arad reports that in the decision issued a short time ago the attorney general asserts that the circumstances of this case include interests and values which outweigh the merits of putting 'Ashrawi on trial. Harish states: After examining all the aspects of the case—the current contacts and negotiations and the circumstances which will not necessarily recur any time in the future—I decided to endorse the decision of the state attorney and not to bring Dr. 'Ashrawi to trial.

Issues Ruling on Silwan Settlement

TA2511210391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Attorney General Yosef Harish this evening issued a legal ruling stating that the police have the authority not to allow settlers in the East Jerusalem village of Silwan to exercise their property rights and take possession of all the houses they have purchased. In the ruling delivered to Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner a short time ago, Harish asserts that the security considerations on this issue outweigh the right of the

settlers to take possession of the property they have purchased until such time as security conditions have favorably changed.

Nevertheless, the attorney general told our legal affairs correspondent Shlomo Arad, he thinks that due to the different opinions on the issue the government will have to issue its own guidelines on the matter before the police take action to remove the settlers from the site.

Our correspondent adds that the High Court of Justice will discuss the issue next Sunday when it hears a petition submitted by the settlers. Harish's ruling will be used as an answer to the settlers' petition.

[Later on in the newscast, the announcer reads "Gush Emunim's reaction to the attorney general's ruling concerning the settlers in Silwan. Gush Emunim has harshly reacted to the attorney general's decisions not to allow the City of David settlers to remain in their houses and not to try Hanan 'Ashrawi. Gush Emunim told our correspondent Beni Liss that the attorney general's decisions are a continued capitulation to what they term the PLO's terror and render moot whatever remains of the rule of law in Israel.

"On the other hand, Knesset Member Yosi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement says the government must order the police to evacuate the settlers without any further delay. Sarid says that in Mr. Harish's opinion the settlement in Silwan is a security blight which must be removed."]

Ministers Criticize Settlement, 'Ashrawi Rulings

TA2611120991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] There is no security restriction banning Jews from living in the City of David. Two families are living there now and security in the area has improved. This is a result, Minister Ari'el Sharon stated, in response to last night's decision by the attorney general concerning the City of David settlement.

Replying to a question by our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz about Attorney General Yosef Harish's decision not to bring Hanan 'Ashrawi to trial, Sharon said the leaders of the intifadah terror, including some members of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid conference, should have been outside the boundaries of the State of Israel or behind bars long ago. This also applies to Hanan 'Ashrawi.

[Begin recording] [Sharon] There is no security restriction to living in the City of David. Not only is there no restriction, but ever since these two families have been living there, security in the area has improved. Without going into any security details, let me say that their presence there makes it easier on the security forces to carry out their duties.

[Horowitz] And what about Hanan 'Ashrawi? Do you think the attorney general made the right decision when he ruled that there was insufficient evidence to bring her to trial?

[Sharon] I have already stated my views on this issue. All these figures should have been outside the boundaries of the State of Israel or behind bars long ago, in the place where people instigating terror and sabotage should be. [end recording]

Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi criticized the attorney general, saying he should make sure that the law is upheld and leave political considerations to others. Ze'evi added: Harish's recommendations concerning Hanan 'Ashrawi, who instigated terror and violence, and regarding the evacuation of Bet Meyuhas due to security considerations—an area that is not within his responsibility or knowledge—are very astonishing.

Construction at Settlement Near Jerusalem Limited

TA2411055191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] The Construction and Housing Ministry has issued instructions to start no more than 300 apartments in the settlement of Betar, near Jerusalem. At present, the only ongoing construction at the location is on houses already started earlier. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that so far, over 1,200 apartments have been sold in Betar, mostly to ultraorthodox families.

Minister Ari'el Sharon says that the sale of apartments in Betar proves that the Treasury decision enjoining his ministry from further building is unrelated to budgetary problems and constitutes a surrender to American pressure.

Rabin Comments on Peace Talks Invitation Issue

TA2511064891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Labor Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Mr. Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Qital] How do you view the Israeli reply, at least the way it looks now: a yes with several buts?

[Rabin] Look, as an Israeli, I feel very uncomfortable with what happened in Washington: They issued an invitation without the prime minister's knowledge in between his meeting with the secretary of state and the meeting with the president. This is not done; it is not the right way to do things and is the wrong attitude to take between our two countries. On the other hand, however—and I am not representing America here, but speaking as an Israeli—it is hard not to feel that the Israeli Government, which has been presented with an unusual opportunity to hold direct, bilateral negotiations

with the Palestinians and the Syrians, is too busy with procedure and venue and is not taking the opportunity to hold serious discussions to at least try to advance the possibility of making peace.

[Qital] Do the procedural issues and the way they are being forced on us not indicate something about the content? Perhaps this is what worries the prime minister?

[Rabin] Primarily, I believe that the U.S. stands on the matters of substance are known to us. At the same time, one thing is clear: We have a significant opportunity here to make progress in peace negotiations —certainly with the Palestinian residents of the territories, at least on the first stage of self-rule, the autonomy. I believe that to debate both the venue and the format of the talks while avoiding the issues themselves is a waste of time. I do not view Washington as a particularly bad place, compared with Cyprus or Europe. Washington has one clear advantage: The U.S. Administration is not rushing to grant visas to people who are clearly PLO representatives, thus reducing the presence of elements that are not part of the Palestinian or Jordanian delegation.

[Qital] Mr. Rabin, let us examine another procedural matter on which Israel is insisting: the question of whether the bilateral talks with all the delegations will be held at the same place, thereby not only creating the outward appearance of an international conference, but also allowing the Arab delegations to hold consultations and perhaps even align themselves with the most extreme position.

[Rabin] I do not believe that appearance is the important matter. The time has come to talk about the issues that need to be solved in order to make peace. I view the possibility of making progress with the Palestinians as more realistic; on the other hand, it seems to me that the Syrian stands are still far from expressing the transition and change needed to promote peace.

[Qital] There is again talk of early elections following the recent incidents between Israeli and the United States. Yesterday, the prime minister did not reject the possibility the way he has before. What do you think?

[Rabin] I do not know. It is up to the government, first and foremost, to decide. I believe that as long as the opportunity to start making peace has not been exhausted—and I believe that there is a good chance for progress between Israel and the Palestinian residents of the territories—it would be a shame not to do it.

[Qital] One last question: Knesset Member Hayim Ramon has decided to stay in the Labor Party. Are you glad to hear that?

[Rabin] I am very pleased with this. I believe he made a good decision. He is one of those figures who, following the recent convention, gained a higher status in the party leadership.

[Qital] Thank you, Mr. Rabin.

Rabin—Golan Kibbutzniks Accept UN Resolutions

TA2411073191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Rabin says that when the United Kibbutzim Movement and the Golan kibbutzim members accepted, together with the entire Labor Party, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, they were in fact endorsing the principle of territorial compromise, which includes the Golan Heights. MK Rabin made these remarks last night at a Teachers Union convention in Haifa.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that in Rabin's view, it is preferable to discuss the Golan in terms of a territorial compromise, rather than territories for peace—the former term assuming in advance that the State of Israel will retain territories.

Referring to the Labor Party resolution regarding the separation of state and religion, Rabin defined it as dangerous and mistaken, and even more so in a Jewish state. He revealed that he is taking action to have the resolutin modified, together with Peres and [trade unions federation chief] Qeysar. In his opinion, the resolution should be replaced by one stating that the Labor Party wishes to separate religion from politics. Rabin said that the version endorsed by the party convention will cause Labor to lose 15 percent of its constituents.

The Labor Party dovish group has announced that it will not secede from the party for the time being. The group believes that they have scored success in the party convention, whose resolutions encouraged the group not to secede at this point.

A group of religious Labor members will convene this afternoon to decide on their future in the party.

Gur Supports Rabin; on Labor Leadership Election

TA2311103291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Labor Knesset Member Mordekhay Gur by 'Adi Talmor on the weekly "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Talmor] Good day, Mr. Gur.

[Gur] Good day.

[Talmor] When, if at all, will you announce that you are running for the role of Labor's candidate for the premiership?

[Gur] Not in the near future, and not before the upcoming elections. Several months ago I announced that I would decide only after the party's convention. Right now, the approaching elections were the main consideration in reaching my decision. The coming election campaign will probably focus on the peace process, although there are definitely other important issues, such as immigrant absorption, etc. However, if

the prime minister calls early elections it will only be because of a crisis in the peace process, and in that case I do not believe that any new Labor candidate —whether myself, Gad Ya'aqobi, Shahal, Ora Namir, or Yisra'el Qeysar, who may run for the post—could gather sufficient momentum with the public within two or three months to bring us back to power.

Since I believe that the possibility of our returning to power exists as an objective reality, I think that Yitzhaq Rabin can best serve the public's interest.

[Talmon] What if the victor between the two men is Shim'on Peres?

[Gur] So it will be Shim'on Peres. We live in a democracy. The main question, of course, is to what extent Shim'on Peres can gain the public's confidence for the fifth time. This is the important thing. I have nothing against him, God forbid. We worked together for many years, but this is not a private matter we are dealing with but the capability to finally bring us back to power, when the main issue troubling the public is peace and security—or to put things more accurately: How do we guarantee our security under conditions of peace? To my regret, the past three or four times—including the campaigns when I worked together with Shim'on as the head of his campaign headquarters—were unsuccessful and I myself told him that he must draw the appropriate conclusions and let someone else lead. Peres, however, will act as he sees fit and therefore the party's nomination will be contested. I, at any rate, will support Rabin.

[Talmor] In any case, you will not present your candidacy at this stage but we should not rule this out in the near future?

[Gur] I am leaving all options open for the future. [passage omitted]

Kibbutzniks Threaten Leaving Labor Over Golan

TA2311205791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Excerpt] There is great anger in the kibbutzim on the Golan Heights, in the northern valleys, and in the Galilee over the Labor Party convention's resolution against the establishment of new settlements on the Golan Heights and on the need for a territorial compromise with Syria. Many of the kibbutz members have threatened to quit the party as a result. The kibbutz representatives held an urgent meeting in Qatzrin on the Golan Heights this afternoon, where they firmly demanded that the Labor Party amend its resolution in the convention's next meeting in a month. [passage omitted]

No-Confidence Motion Submitted Over Unemployment

TA2511184491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Following the announcement that the number of unemployed in Israel has reached 190,000, the Labor faction in the Knesset this afternoon decided to present a no-confidence motion in the government. The move was initiated by Knesset Member Gad Ya'aqobi. [passage omitted]

Treasury Predicts Single-Digit Inflation in 1993

TA2211202391 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Nov 91 p 14

[ITIM report]

[Excerpts] After the inflation rate of 20-21 percent predicted for the current year, the Finance Ministry anticipates inflation of 15-16 percent in fiscal 1992, followed by a drop to a single-digit inflation rate in 1993. This was announced yesterday by David Brodet, the head of the Treasury's Budget Department, in an address to the limited forum of chairmen of boards and concerns convened by the Israel Management Center in Tel Aviv.

Brodet, who discussed the multiyear (three-year) budget plan approved by the government, said that it would have been possible to accelerate the process of lowering the inflation rate had it not been for aliyah. He believes that this will delay the process by one year. "There is definitely a good chance we may be able to lower inflation to a single-digit level—that is, less than 10 percent—in 1993, and to continue the trend beyond that."

He added that the government plans to raise 4 billion shekels [approximately $1.75 million] from the public, half of it in 1992 and the other half in 1993, to be followed by "zero capital raising in 1994," in accordance with the intention to cut back to the minimum government involvement in the capital market.

The main effort in fiscal 1992 will be finding employment solutions, Brodet declared. The Treasury does not foresee a housing problem in that year, since the apartments built in 1991 will be sufficient to absorb approximately 100,000 new immigrants in 1992. "The problem is to create jobs in industry, and this is an extremely complicated matter," he noted. [passage omitted]

Brodet said that in the next fiscal year, the government will have to acquire ownership of approximately 22,000 housing units, most of them in the periphery, for which it will pay the contractors $1 billion, according to signed contracts. "We will have to find money for that in the budget or get loans abroad. We have no other sources," he pointed out.

He also said that it is necessary to provide 500,000 jobs to absorb 1 million new immigrants, and that those jobs must be created in an economy that has laid off 30,000 industrial workers in the past three years.

The Treasury predicts that the public sector will absorb 100,000 of these new immigrants, and that the remaining 400,000 jobs will have to be created by the private sector, or otherwise be found in the industry and the services.

He disclosed that 60,000 new private sector jobs were created in 1991, that 10,000 of them went to workers who replaced laborers from the territories (though not in construction or agriculture), and that the other employees found jobs in industry, small businesses, and small industrial workshops.

New Civilian Security Body Considered Inadequate

TA2211180191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Nov 91 p 17

[Article by Amir Oren: "By-the-Way Security"]

[Excerpts] Silently, discreetly—one might say clandestinely—a national security council has just begun to operate at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. Its founders, the executors of Knesset Member Beni Begin's bill, have outwitted the entrenched opponents of the concept of a defense staff outside the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]: The explicit—and objectionable—title of "national security council/staff" is not to be mentioned; for the time being, the name "International Branch" ought to suffice. The General Staff, which was ordered to cooperate with the branch, is supplying it "upon demand"—that is, not as one of its regular mail customers—with data compiled at the Planning Branch [PB] and the Intelligence Branch's [IB] Research Department. Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq and his generals are not ecstatic about the civilian echelons' new staff member, but their attitude toward him would have been even more hostile had the post of the new branch's chief been manned by a retired general, such as a former chief of staff, or retired IB or PB chiefs. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein has circumvented the army-general-cum-adviser obstacle by appointing a full-fledged civilian, one Dr. Yitzhaq Ravid. He is a performance researcher at REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority]. Ravid is making do with his one and only assistant for the present. The distribution of authority and the hierarchies are also unclear at this stage. (Are they accountable to the cabinet secretary, or perhaps to the director general of the Prime Minister's Office? Where does the prime minister's military aide fit into the new structure?) Since the national security staff work is done in an environment teeming with tender sensibilities, everybody is reluctant to define the situation, lest something they say arouse the endangered elements. The PB (whose chief, Major General 'Amram Mitzna', was summoned for urgent talks in Washington this week) is barred from preparing peace and security papers. Defense Minister Arens has no national security staff, some former members of his prematurely aborted embryonic staff can be heard assessing that it will be reborn, but he does have a new rival for the operations of PB on the one hand, and for the Infrastructure Research, Development, and Organization Unit [IRDO] on the other: "Strategic Aerial Command" headed by Reserves Major General 'Amos Lapidot, a ministerial aide for special assignments. In the years under the directorship of former Air Force Commander David 'Ivri, the Defense Ministry became a refueling and waiting base for senior Air Force brigadier generals: Herzl Bodinger was the defense establishment deputy comptroller (until his appointment as Air Force chief), and as of now—following Giyora Rom's polite refusal—Amir Nahumi is Lapidot's deputy.

A particularly problematic area—disarmament—is supposed to be steered by the Foreign Ministry, whose Disarmament Affairs Division is subordinate to Deputy Director General Eytan Bentzur. Hans Blix, the International Atomic Energy Agency director, predicted this week in an interview with the HERALD TRIBUNE that the peace conference would produce an agreement banning weapons of mass destruction, "the most important part of which would be the establishment of a nuclear-arms-free zone in the Middle East," including Israel. While one can believe that Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens will let David Levi lead declarations about beating swords into plowshares, in practice it is certain that the Prime Minister's Office (which is in charge of the Atomic Energy Commission, the Science Administration, as well as the new "International Branch") and the Defense Ministry (Arens, 'Ivri, Lapidot, and the IRDO on the civilian side, and Baraq and Mitzna' on the military side) will want to dictate the lyrics of the song Bentzur will sing in the ears of the participants at the multilateral talks.

Treading in one spot, and not regressing, is considered an achievement these days in defense-related contacts with the Americans. If they decide to remind Israel of who has a stick to wave at whom, and who is merely flapping his arms, Bush and Baker will probably resort to the military sticks as well. Although they may find it difficult to do so in the next two years, in which the defense aid is already firmly pledged to previous and ongoing deals, they are capable of signaling to Congress their displeasure with the increased ratio of dollars converted into shekels. Arens is naturally inclined—and even more so during an election year—toward feeding the defense industries' kitty, but similar considerations guide U.S. congressmen and their former colleague Richard Cheney, the secretary of defense who is striving for higher places and who is habitually briefed by Baker at the breakfast table. [passage omitted]

There is a need to find an alternative threat that will convince the Pentagon to invest in the IDF in anticipation of a combined operation in the absence of Soviet incentive for Israeli-U.S. strategic cooperations. Such a threat may be the national and religious dynamite in the republics of central Asia that have rejected union with the USSR. Faced with those—or, alternatively, with a domestic war such as the one in Yugoslavia—the tensions between the American and the European partners of NATO may cause Washington to search for support outside NATO. It is the Navy, which has been traditionally against tight relations with Israel, that is at present the most feasible candidate for conversion of all the U.S. military branches. The 6th Fleet's task in the Mediterranean may focus on north Africa, and particularly on Libya. Admiral Kelso, the chief of naval operations, commanded the naval activity against Libya five years ago.

A significant boost to the understanding of Israel's importance could conceivably come upon the appointment of Jonathan Howe as deputy national security adviser in the Bush administration. Admiral Howe, a submarine officer who holds university degrees from Johns Hopkins and Tufts, is currently stationed in Naples. There he commands NATO's southern command, which controls the waters of both Libya and Israel. George Shultz borrowed him from the Navy and placed him in the Department of State's bureau of politicomilitary affairs in the 1980's. That is how Howe found himself involved in the early days of strategic cooperation with Israel and became thoroughly acquainted with Foreign and Defense Ministry personnel (Mikha Ram, then Israel's naval attache in Washington, is currently rear admiral and is the commander of the Israel Navy), and acquired a reputation for being friendly and well-versed in Israel-related matters. The circumstances then, though, were far different than now: Syria engaged in active combat against U.S. troops, and the navigator who was felled over Lebanese airspace and captured was not Israel's Ron Arad, but America's Goodman.

Howe, 56, is National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft's preferred candidate for the job vacated when Robert Gates was appointed CIA director. It was during the Scowcroft-Gates tenure that the National Security Council [NSC] became known for maintaining a cool attitude toward Israel—and for a reason, if one bears in mind the NSC's immediate subordination to President Bush and the Shamir government's foibles. Admiral Howe will not change the policy, even if he follows in Gates' footsteps and coordinates the "committee of deputies" of the Pentagon, the Department of State, the CIA, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He will, however, be able to offer a different perspective and provide Israel with a vitally important point of contact. All three active-duty officers who were appointed deputy NSC advisers under Republican Presidents (Air Force General Scowcroft under Kissinger during Nixon's term, Admiral John Poindexter under McFarlane during Reagan's term, and General Colin Powell under Carlucci) quickly advanced, and as soon as their superiors retired they were promoted to national security adviser. If these are trend-setting precedents, Howe might well sprint to a key position in Bush's next government after the elections. [passage omitted]

The Israeli system does not nurture officers or officials in a similar track. No brigadier general will be lent to the Prime Minister's Office or the Foreign Ministry to run departments there, nor will civilians holding an equally elevated position be put in charge of a parallel branch in the Defense Ministry. As the complex, demanding process that will set the character of Israel's national security for years is at its most active, the paucity of the Israeli staff work stands out clearly. The "international branch," with its one and a half PhD's and occasional requests for PB and IB data, is a poor substitute for the body that is really necessary. Ehud Baraq said in the previous decade that "if the idea behind a national security council is to gather a group of advisers whose experience and expertise allow them to assist the decision- making echelon in reviewing the range of alternatives and targeting directions for examination, then if indeed the Israeli Government decides it should have such a body, it should set it up." Behind this empty cliche—after all, it is as clear as day that if the political echelon decides that such a body is necessary, the military echelon's objections will not stop it, and it will have to set such a body up—lurked the supposition that no national security staff would be established. Now, as a staff disguised as a branch is emerging supposedly unnoticed, the only sure thing is that the chief of staff's order that high-ranking civilian officials must be saluted will not apply to it.

Defense Minister Arens Approves Army Appointments

TA2511150091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Nov 91 p A5

[Text] Major General Yoram Ya'ir will be appointed head of the manpower branch in June 1992, replacing Maj. Gen. Ran Goren, who will retire from active duty. Brigadier General Giyora Rom will be appointed Israel's defense and Armed Forces attache in the United States and will be promoted to major general.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens approved Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq's recommendation on these two appointments yesterday, and they will become effective 1 June 1992.

Brig. Gen. Giyora Rom will replace Rear Admiral Avraham Ben-Shoshan, who will end his active military duty.

Rom was suggested as Air Force commander, but when the decision was made to appoint Brig. Gen. Herzl Bodinger to the post, Rom was asked to continue to serve in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

Rom will be promoted to major general around 1 June, when he enters office.

Communique Planned on Decision To Join MCTR

TA2511150591 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Nov 91 p 2

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpt] The Israeli Government will issue an official communique announcing its decision to join MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime] toward the end of December. The Defense Ministry is getting ready for the enforcement of the new regulations which restrict the sale of missile technologies and of dual-use parameters instrumental in the development and manufacture of missiles.

David 'Ivri, director general of the Defense Ministry, has instructed the Defense Sales Department to coordinate the preparations and issue the appropriate guidelines to the military industries.

The Defense Ministry has drawn a detailed list of all the dual-use products and technologies banned by MTCR.

The Defense Ministry is working in conjunction with the Trade and Industry Ministry in anticipation of the publication of the decision in the Knesset official gazette following its approval by the subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. [passage omitted]

Purchase of Armaments Parts in Europe Expands

TA2511131691 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Nov 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Israel's defense establishment is changing directions and expanding purchase in Europe of components and spare parts for weapons and armament it is producing in Israel, thus limiting its purchases in the United States. In doing so, Israel is trying to free itself of the need to obtain a U.S. approval before it can sell these weapons. This was reported by senior defense sources.

According to the sources, the U.S. Administration has not been easily giving such permits for the sale of Israeli products that contain U.S. components. The administration wants to protect its local defense industry and, since the Gulf war, has been procrastinating more in its supervision of armament sales around the world. Recently it has been published that the United States expressed its opposition to the sale of 40 Kfir's to Taiwan.

Arens Denies U.S. Termination of Arrow Project

TA2511154991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has denied the AVIATION WEEK report that the Americans have terminated their partnership in the development of the Arrow missile. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that upon emerging from a meeting with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Minister Arens said there is full cooperation with the United States and the project is good but, just like any other project, it is not devoid of snags. He noted that talks on strategic and technical cooperation were held about a month ago with U.S. teams in Washington. The talks were very good and were not affected by disagreements in other areas, the defense minister observed. [passage omitted]

Further on U.S. Actions

TA2511205591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] The United States will not permit additional testing of the Arrow missile before the malfunctions which caused the failure of the latest test three weeks ago have been located, Israeli sources told our correspondent Karmela Menashe. The sources noted that the publicity given to the development phases of the missile has been damaging and has had a bad effect on the management of the project. They went on to say that at the moment there is no alternative weapon to counter surface-to-surface missiles and that the tests conducted with the upgraded Patriot missiles showed that they do not provide a sufficient answer. The Americans did not promise to buy the missile from Israel but they are interested in the development of the missile intercept technology, the sources remarked.

Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee earlier today, Defense Minister Moshe Arens denied the report that the United States had terminated its partnership in the development of the Arrow missile.

IDF Fires on Hizballah Targets in South Lebanon

TA2511180791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1748 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Report by army affairs corresondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit which was on operational duty in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area on the fringes of the security zone in southern Lebanon today fired upon and hit Hizballah targets serving as staging bases for terrorist attacks. Lebanese Army troops, who were near the targets, may also have been hurt according to an initial report.

Official military sources have reported that the IDF avoided firing at the Lebanese Army and is focusing its activity in the region on terrorist targets. They added that if Lebanese Army soldiers had indeed been hurt in the firing, this is something to be regretted. The IDF expects the Lebanese Army to prevent terrorist presence in the areas under its control and to curtail terrorist activity against the security strip.

Military sources reported this evening that the IDF had on several occasions complained that the Lebanese Army was not fulfilling its duty to prevent terrorist activity from Lebanese territory against the security zone and Israel. They stressed that unidentified Lebanese Army activity in these areas could be dangerous.

Adviser on Intifadah on Situation in Territories

TA2211210291 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 20 Nov 91 p 11

[Interview with Brigadier General M., the chief of staff's adviser on intifadah affairs, by Yuval Natan and Yaqi Galanty; place and date not given]

[Text] "Most of the current terrorist attacks in the territories are organized by Fatah," said Brigadier General M., the chief of staff's adviser on intifadah affairs. "All this talk that the peace process has led Fatah to end the attacks is simply not true," he said. "It has all been fabricated by the press."

[BAMAHANE] Has the level of hostile terrorist activity changed since the Madrid conference?

[M.] The level has remained pretty much the same. There is no increase in the volume of attacks, but there are more attacks against Israelis and fewer attacks against internal targets. I accept the contention that the political process, regardless of whether it succeeds or fails, will increase the motivation for terrorist activity.

[BAMAHANE] You say that the level of violence has not dropped. What, then, do the demonstrations with the olive branches signify?

[M.] They are nothing but a media gimmick, which lasted a very short time. They were held only where the press was present, whereas in the other places rocks continued to be lobbed. Everything was orchestrated by Fatah for propaganda reasons; that is all.

[BAMAHANE] Have special instructions been given on how to handle this type of rally?

[M.] There were briefings, and the decision was that in most cases there is no point in dispersing these demonstrations, so long as they are not violent. That is because, as I said, they were nothing but a media gimmick. Any Army move to disperse them would have played into the hands of the organizers of the demonstrations.

[BAMAHANE] Is all the talk about the establishment of a Gaza city council another step toward implementing autonomy?

[M.] The inhabitants and the Civil Administration have long maintained cooperation, so that this is another step toward making the residents' lives more comfortable, irrespective of autonomy. Gaza has had a city council once before, except that now every step to alleviate the residents' plight is interpreted as marking the corridor toward autonomy, not as just one more gesture toward the inhabitants. The fact that the council will include Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah supporters should not be taken so seriously, either. After all, they will discuss issues such as who will clear the garbage from the refugee camps, nothing more.

[BAMAHANE] Does the cooperation between Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] during the Madrid conference redefine the setup of the terrorist organizations active in the territories?

[M.] Not at all. This is merely a tactical, unholy alliance between terrorist organizations holding ideologies that are polar extremes of each other. This was an ad hoc pact against the backdrop of the peace issue, which is controversial in the Palestinian street. Such things have happened before, but this is not to say that PFLP supporters will now start praying and kneeling toward Mecca seven times a day.

[BAMAHANE] Has the special IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activity in the territories proven its worth in the struggle against the various terrorist cells?

[M.] The special activity has an effect that can be assessed only in perspective. The atmosphere generated by the squads is loathsome to the majority of the population. They institute a reign of terror and violence and make life difficult in various ways, for example, one's departure for work or the closing of shops.

The advantage in the Arab-busting activity [bape'ilut hamista'arevet] lies in its drawing a distinction between those who work for us and those who do not, thereby lowering the motivation for hostile activity. The motto is that the righteous shall prosper, while the evil ones shall suffer.

If a wanted man such as Mahid Abu-al-Hasan is killed as he clutches his weapon, people will know that anyone can be eliminated and in every way. This is a deterrent. True, there are always others to step in, but it takes them time before they can fully replace the wanted men who were caught or hurt, and this interferes with the squad's activities.

We constantly talk about an organization with leaders, but in fact this is a small hard core around which all sorts of people gather. In most cases there is no connection whatsoever to the so- called "Black Panther gang." This is a name they invented, which the media likes to use to add a dramatic touch.

[BAMAHANE] In view of the success of the special activity, is there an intention to substantially increase the number of units operating in that area?

[M.] Right now in Gaza, for instance, dozens of Arab-busting units are active. The advantage our Army has is that we have good human material, and every soldier who joins the activity in the territories can acquire special skills that, in turn, facilitate special activity. Special units affiliated with the brigades undergo training to become Arab busters, as do some segments of the standing army, armored infantry units, and others that are not specially designated units.

Agreement To End 'Wholesale' Arab Laborer Arrests

TA2211195191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Nov 91 p 2

[Report by Eli Brenner]

[Text] The wholesale police detentions of Arab laborers who allegedly do not qualify for work permits inside the Green Line will apparently decrease, or even completely end.

Attorney Tamar Peleg of the Civil Rights Association, who is handling the case of 10 Gazans who have been apprehended in the past six months and fined 500 shekels, has been told that their complaints are being reviewed by the legal adviser to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commander in the Gaza Strip, as well as by the military prosecutor in the region. Some of the cases will be closed, and the money will apparently be returned.

DAVAR has learned that the IDF and the police have reached an agreement on permitting territories' residents with work permits to travel alone freely in the area specified in their papers. They will not need to be

escorted by their Israeli employers nor will they be confined to their work place, as the police have so far interpreted the relevant clause.

Last year hundreds of Arab workers were detained, many in the Tel Aviv region. The police routinely collected them at pick-up spots and brought them to the Abu-Kabir detention center, where they would be kept for one or two days. These individuals were then taken to the Gaza or West Bank Civil Administration. They were required to pay a fine or stand trial. Most of them preferred to pay the fine and thereby end the whole affair because they wanted to retrieve their identity cards and work permits immediately so they could go back to work. They received the documents two weeks later.

According to police information, approximately 900 individuals were detained in September, half of them from the Gaza Strip and the other half from the West Bank. This surprised the Army authorities, who anticipated a drop in these cases following their involvement.

Hebron Election Results for Academic Association

TA2311055891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] The National List has won the Hebron elections for the Academics Association. This faction is identified with the PLO mainstream. The Islamic Bloc, which is identified with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and which won the previous elections for the Hebron chamber of commerce, was defeated.

Hebron residents explained that these developments were one of the results of the peace process.

Agreement Reached on Minor Pilgrimage to Mecca

TA2211195891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Khalilah]

[Excerpts] Dr. Alexander Bligh, the prime minister's Arab affairs adviser, and representatives of the Religious Affairs Ministry and the Interior Ministry yesterday agreed with Muslim leaders that the minor pilgrimage to Mecca will be held on 18 January. The agreement is acceptable to the East Jerusalem Muslim Waqf. [passage omitted]

According to the agreement, only those who have registered in the Waqf offices in Jerusalem to date can leave. The Israeli authorities, citing technical and security reasons, refused to agree to the request of the Muslim community to allow people under the age of 40 to make the minor pilgrimage to Mecca. The exit permits to Saudi Arabia will be issued to those who are eligible, in the Interior Ministry offices beginning 15 December, three days before the pilgrimage [as published]. The Interior Ministry announced that it will insist on receiving a request with two recent photos and a valid identity card that includes a photograph, from women as well as men. A valid identity card should also be presented at Adam Bridge.

Abu-Jabir on Bilateral Talks, American Jews

JN2211130391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir by George Tarif in Amman on 22 November—recorded]

[Text] [Tarif] Dr. Abu-Jabir, would you please tell us what is your comment on the position of American Jews who support the land-for-peace principle in the Middle East?

[Abu-Jabir] I believe this is a positive development, particularly given the importance of American Jews in Israeli decisionmaking. As you know, American Jews represent the vital artery, or the backbone, that supports world Zionism. They also play a major role in the decisionmaking in the Israeli state. Such a change, therefore, is good and is a step in the right direction. We hope such a change will continue until they accept wholeheartedly the land-for-peace principle in accordance with UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. I believe that such a change in the public opinion of Jews internationally will eventually happen. This will, in turn, lead to changes within Israeli society.

[Tarif] Dr. Abu-Jabir, what is the latest on the bilateral talks between Arab states and Israel?

[Abu-Jabir] The talks will be held, God willing, early next month in Washington.

[Tarif] Dr. Abu-Jabir, yesterday Dr. Butrus Ghali was elected UN secretary general. What is your comment on this?

[Abu-Jabir] Of course, we in Jordan welcome this. We have supported him, and we still support him now, given the personal qualifications that Dr. Butrus Ghali enjoys. He is a political science professor and a man with great experience on the Arab, Islamic, and international levels. Therefore, I think he is probably the best man to speak for the Third World. That is why we greatly welcome his election to this high post. I believe he will play an effective role in establishing peace all over the world.

[Tarif] Thank you Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir.

[Abu-Jabir] Thanks to Jordanian radio.

Abu-Jabir Praises Israeli Labor Party Decision

JN2211082991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0620 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has described the decision made yesterday by the Israeli Labor Party to recognize the national rights of the Palestinians, as positive and rational. Minister Abu-Jabir noted that the Israeli Labor Party has recognized reality, because the Palestinian people do exist; they have always existed on their national soil throughout history.

With regard to the announcement made by the Israeli Labor Party, led by Shim'on Peres, concerning its support for territorial compromise, the Jordanian minister said that it would have been better had this decision been in harmony with the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 242, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied in 1967.

Favorable Response to U.S. Invitation Viewed

JN2511113491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Nov 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Invitation Bears Message"]

[Text] Washington's decision to issue invitations to the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to attend the second round of bilateral negotiations in Washington on Dec. 4 without prior clearance from Israel and the Arabs may have been intended to drive home the point that the U.S. will call the shots if necessary to advance the peace process. Reports from Tel Aviv describe the Israeli government as flabbergasted by the sudden news that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had sent the invitations without waiting for a prior Israeli response and by the way the invitation was made protocol-wise. As can be judged from the letters of invitations dispatched to the various parties, the U.S. government waited long enough for the parties to agree on the venue and timing of the second stage peace talks and decided to make a unilateral decision to name the place and time of these parleys after giving up on the parties to agree on them among themselves. There is no doubt that Israel and Israel alone was responsible for the stalemate on determining the location and date of the talks by blocking one option after the other and insisting on its own definition of an appropriate site for the negotiations. In so doing, we like to think that the U.S. is sending a clear signal to Israel in general and to its Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in particular that the Bush administration is determined to see through the ongoing peace process and that Israel's delaying or derailing tactics will not be tolerated. In thinking in those terms, there should be a growing sense of optimism among the Arab parties which have advocated all along a stronger presence and clout for the host countries in the current peace efforts to settle once and for all the Palestinian problem and the wider Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of international legitimacy as pronounced by U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338.

Undoubtedly, Israel, in the final analysis, will acquiesce to the U.S. invitations because it cannot afford not to. What Shamir will probably try to do now is extract some concessions and exact a sizable price in return for his reluctant agreement to the invitation insinuating that he has made great sacrifices in going along with the terms and conditions of the Baker invitation. It must be recalled in this vein, that Israel got most of its conditions met on the modalities of the first round of negotiations. Having succeeded in imposing its conditions on the first stage of talks, Israel may have the erroneous impression

that it can succeed once again in insisting on its own terms for conducting the coming peace talks.

To pre-empt Israel, it is only right on our part to respond favourably to the invitation, even though we have to learn to deal differently with the price tag involved. That in itself shows the real stand of Jordan on the peace process. Once a decision was taken to wage peace, no effort must be spared to facilitate the success of the peace efforts especially when it is based on the strong rockbed of international legitimacy and justice. It is no accident that the Palestinians have been equally warm to the invitation and by being positive they have also amply demonstrated once again that they are totally committed to the current peace process. No doubt Israel will be the last to reply to the call for the resumption of the talks and in so doing it will have demonstrated once again that it is a reluctant party to the quest for peace in the Middle East. Under no circumstances, however, should it be allowed to get away within its dangerous games and procrastination, especially that the Americans have a most potent weapon in furnishing or withholding the $10 billion loan guarantees. In the end, the spoiled child has to learn discipline; otherwise, things might get out of hand and not only one party will pay the price for it.

King Congratulates Mubarak on Ghali Election

JN2211211891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn telephoned Egyptian President Husni Mubarak this evening and congratulated him over the election of Dr. Butrus Ghali, Egyptian deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, to the post of UN secretary general.

The telephone discussion also dealt with the bilateral negotiations between the Arab countries and Israel, which have been proposed to be held in Washington on 4 December.

House Speaker Receives Iraqi Delegation

JN2311164691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, met today with a delegation representing the Iraqi National Assembly. The delegation is led by 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Jinabi, National Assembly secretary and member of the speaker's office.

Dr. 'Arabiyat and the Iraqi delegation reviewed the situation in fraternal Iraq and the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the economic blockade.

They also discussed bilateral relations in parliamentary areas and possible cooperation and coordination among Arab parliaments to face developments affecting the Arab nation.

Profiles of New Cabinet Members Published

JN2311082891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Following are the profiles of the ministers who joined the new government:

Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, prime minister and minister of defence

Born in Amman in 1934, completed his secondary education in Victoria College in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1951, graduated from Sandhurst Military College in the United Kingdom in 1955 and from the U.S. Staff and Command College in 1964. He joined the Jordanian Armed Forces in 1953. He worked as a personal escort for His Majesty King Husayn from 1955 till 1957. Then, he worked as assistant military attache in London. He became commander of an Armoured Division in 1964, assistant chief of staff for Operations Affairs in 1970, chief of staff in 1972 and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces in 1976. He served as Royal Court Chief before becoming Prime Minister in 1989. His government supervised the election of the Lower House of Parliament the same year and then resigned before the first Parliamentary session started. He carries several Jordanian, Arab and international medals. Before being again appointed as prime minister, he served as the chief of the Royal Court.

'Atif al-Butush, minister of state for parliamentary affairs

Born in al-Zarqa' in 1953, he was educated in local schools in al-Tayyibah and al-Karak before obtaining his B.A. degree in law from the Arab University in Beirut and his M.A. degree from a Pakistani university. He had worked in the Jordanian Ports Corporation since 1975. In 1989, he was elected as a member of the Lower House of Parliament. He occupied the post of deputy house speaker.

Amin 'Awwad al-Mashaqibah, minister of social development

Born in al-Mafraq in 1955, he obtained a political science degree from the University of Jordan in 1978, and an M.A. degree in international relations from New Jersy University [as published] in 1980 and a doctorate degree in contrastive politics from the University of Southern California in 1986. He is an assistant professor at al-Yarmuk University and is assistant dean of the Faculty of Arts. He wrote several books on the political system in Jordan.

Sultan al-'Adwan, minister of state

Born in Amman 1936, he obtained a diploma from the Faculty of Agriculture of the National University of Lebanon. He was member of the National Consultative Council, president of the Farmers Federation and president of the Jordan Soccer Federation. In 1989, he was elected to the Lower House of Parliament to represent the al-Balqa' area.

Yanal Hikmat, minister of tourism and antiquities

Born in Amman in 1933, he obtained a B.A. in economics and tourism from California University in 1956. He worked at the Foreign Ministry and as chief of Royal protocol. He then served as foreign minister in two consecutive governments.

Yusuf al-Mabayyidin, minister of Justice

Born in al-Karak, he holds a B.A. in law from Damascus University and a public administration diploma from Lahai International Institute in the Netherlands. He worked as district governor, governor at the Ministry of Interior and secretary general of Bayt al-Maqdis General Conference. He was elected in the al-Karak constituency as a member in the Lower House of Parliament.

Mahmud al-Samrah, minister of culture

Born in the Palestinian town of al-Tanturah in 1924, he obtained his B.A. degree in arts from Cairo University in 1950 and then his doctorate degree from London University in 1958. He then worked at the University of Jordan as professor of literary criticism. He became dean of the Faculty of Arts in 1968. The last post he occupied was president of the University of Jordan. He was decoraterd with al Is-tiklal medal of the First Order in 1974.

Awad Khulayfat, minister of higher education

Born in Wadi Musa in 1945, he obtained a B.A. degree in history from the University of Jordan in 1967 and a doctorate degree from London University in 1973. He worked as chairman of the University of Jordan's History Department, assistant secretary general of the Arab Historians Association, al-Yarmuk University vice-president, Mu'tah University president and minister of youth. He is member of the Jordanian Writers Association and al-Yarmuk University's Jordanian Studies Centre.

Jamal al-Sarayirah, minister of communications

Born in al-Hashimiyah, al-Karak, in 1945, he obtained a B.A. in English literature from the University of Kuwait in 1976 and a diploma in law and international relations from Wales University. He then worked as a researcher and consultant at Aramco. He was elected to the Lower House of Parliament in 1989 and then served as minister of transport and communications.

Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and minister of education

Born in al-Nu'aymah, near Irbid, in 1927, he obtained a B.A. in history from Cairo University in 1950 and an M.A. degree in education from Maryland University in 1959. He served as deputy prime minister and education minister, minister of information, finance and social development. He won a seat in the 1989 Parliamentary elections.

Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for prime ministry affairs

Born in Beirut in 1934, he holds a B.A. from the American University of Beirut. He worked as secretary for His Majesty King Husayn, as Jordan's ambassador to Switzerland, West Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, as director of the Civil Service Commission, minister of state for prime ministry affairs and minister of information.

'Arif al-Batayinah, minister of health

Born in al-Barihah, in 1931. He was educated in Bir Zeit and Ramallah schools, obtained a diploma in science from the American University of Beirut and then a B.A. degree in medicine from London University in 1960. Since then he has worked in the Jordanian Armed Forces. In 1980, he was appointed director of al-Husayn Medical Centre and in 1990 director of the Royal Medical Services in the rank of major general. Dr. al-Batayinah was decorated with several Royal medals in appreciation of his services.

Muhammad al-Saqqaf, minister of supply

Born in Amman in 1937, he obtained his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Cairo University. He was Jordan's representative at the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) and the Arab Economic Council. He was appointed secretary general of the Ministry of Supply in 1978 until taking over as director general of the Social Security Corporation in 1991.

Fayiz al-Khasawinah, minister of agriculture

Born in Aydun, Irbid, in 1938, he obtained his B.A. degree in agriculture from the American University of Beirut in 1959, and his M.A. and doctorate degrees from the University of Auburn in Georgia in 1965. He then worked in the U.S. for 17 years in a research centre before coming back to Jordan to work at the Jordan University of Science and Technology as the university vice-president for Agriculture Affairs.

'Abdallah al-Nusur, minister of industry and trade

Born in Salt in 1939, he was educated at the American University of Beirut and in the United States where he graduated with a Masters degree in 1965, and with a Doctorate degree from the Sorbonne University in Paris. He is member of Parliament, elected in the 1989 elections, and formerly served as minister of finance in the cabinet of Zayd al-Rifa'i. He also served as director of the Income Tax Department and in several other posts here and abroad. He also served as minister of education, planning and foreign affairs.

'Discordant Voices' Warned About Opposition

JN2611104991 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Nov 91 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "So That None Would Try To Teach Us Patriotism"]

[Text] Jordan, which has always been committed to its nation's causes and which has paid dearly and endured a great deal for the sake of this commitment, does not

accept anyone inside or outside the country casting doubt on its stand toward a just peace.

In 1948, Jordan, with its limited capabilities, waged the first Arab-Israeli war and succeeded in rescuing what it could of Palestinian territory, especially Arab Jerusalem. In 1967, Jordan engaged in another Arab war alongside its brothers. The result was a hard military defeat for which our military capabilities at the time could not be held responsible. In 1973, we did not remain silent; we sent the elite of our army to our brothers in Syria and carried out our role and duty in full.

Throughout the Iraq-Iran war, we refused to be in the trench of the nation's enemy or to be neutral. In the Gulf crisis, our deep awareness and pan-Arab affiliation prompted us to be with all the Arab brothers, headed by the Iraqis, Kuwaitis, and Saudis in order to protect Arab solidarity, progress, and resources. Only a few recognized the true meaning of our awareness and affiliation. Many realize now that we were neither with an Arab brother against another, nor in an Arab trench against another, but we were with all our brothers in the trench of our nation.

Facts continue to confirm that had an Arab solution been accepted, we would have saved ourselves from the disaster which had afflicted us all. We adopted an attitude toward the crisis and aggression on Iraq, unafraid of the consequences now evident in the various measures taken against us—measures that sometimes take the form of siege and severance of aid and loans to Jordan.

All these positions give us the right to warn all the discordant voices inside and outside against continuing to cast doubts. It also behooves us to warn those who imagine they can be heroes by cursing us, "patriotic" by outbidding us, or "nationalists" by making accusations against us. We tell them: Jordan, with its people and leadership as well as its awareness and firm pan-Arab affiliation, is bigger than those who were always against democracy, against freedom, and against the people. When democracy emerged, they imagined that it was an umbrella to conceal their mistakes and sins and not a light which would expose their concealed mistakes and sins.

Jordan's march toward peace is that of our homeland, people, and nation toward a just peace based on international legitimacy. All should support this march, which will either lead to peace or be a chance to expose the falsehood of the defenders of international legitimacy, the masters of the new world order.

We are not seeking any peace at any price, and the enemies of democracy, freedom, and both national and pan-Arab affiliation should stop trying to give us lessons in loyalty to the homeland and affiliation to the nation. Our history as people and leadership is one of continuous loyalty and affiliation.

Eight Sentenced To Death in Muhammad's Army

JN2611080591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Nov 91 pp 1,2

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The State Security Court Monday sentenced eight men to death after finding them guilty of plotting to illegally change the country's constitution, possessing explosives and arms, attempting murder and terror acts, belonging to an illegal group, colleting funds for illegal organisations, and using fake car licence plates.

The verdict, passed by a three-judge panel at the Marka chambers of the court, needs the endorsement of the prime minister and then His Majesty King Husayn to be carried out. The sentences cannot be appealed.

The eight are part of 20 people found guilty of belonging to an organisation called "Muhammad's Army." The rest received sentences ranging from four and a half years to life.

While four were sentenced to life, the founder of the group, Samih Abu-Zaydan, had his sentence reduced from death to 15 years in jail because "he had no precedence and because of old age."

The 20 men were part of over 100 people arrested earlier this year by security forces.

Eighty four were released in August. The Lower House of Parliament's Committee for Public Freedoms accused security forces in August of torturing the detainees. The government rejected the committee's findings as untrue.

When the court hearing opened in September the defence argued that the court was incompetent to handle the case and that the defendants had signed confessions under duress and torture. The court refuted this and the trial proceeded.

In Monday's verdict, the chief judge, Colonel Yusuf al-Fa'uri, read a long statement asserting the validity of the court and detailing the history of Muhammad's Army's organisation and the actions that led to the arrest and trial of the group's members.

He said that the group, which originally was formed in support of the Afghan Mujahedden, turned into an anti-government organisation in 1988.

Col. al-Fa'uri said the group's activities included monitoring of Army positions, monitoring the Canadian ambassador's residence, firing at a liquor store, and planting explosives in a priest's car and in an intellegence officer's car.

The following eight were sentenced to death: Fu'ad Sulayman, Jawad al-Faqih, Habis al-Qaysi, Nabil Abu-Harthiyah, Muhammad al-Dajani, Ziyad Yunus, Jamal Shakir Abu-Jami' (in absentia), and Isma'il al- Bishawi (in absentia). The following were given life sentences: Mustafa Sulayman, Yusuf Abu-'Ali, Salim al-Sa'idi and Khadr Abu- Hawshar.

Muhammad Khalifah, Haytham Darwish, Walid Abu-al-Sa'ud and Samih Abu-Zaydan were sentenced to 15 years. Khalid Hammad and 'Amir Abu-'Amir got 10 years each. Ibrahim Abu-Salma got 7 ½ years, and Muhammad al-Wahidi got four and a half years.

Islamists Denounce U.S. 'Threats' Against Libya

JN2411102891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Nov 91 p 5

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—Deputies of the Islamic movement "The Muslim Brotherhood" have issued a statement on "the U.S. threats against Libya," in which they said: The United States, still intoxicated by its usurping aggression against Iraq, began to promote its "big stick" policy throughout the world, tempting some hireling persons and oppressed peoples with aid and bribery so that it would maintain its hegemony over the international arena in the name of "the new world order," which is the order of U.S. domination and others' humiliation.

The latest in this regard was a U.S. threat to commit a premeditated aggression against sisterly Libya. We do not know when it will commit this aggression nor do we know how deeply "the mother of Israel" will be involved in shedding the blood of the innocent Libyan people first for the claimed nuclear "intentions" and then in retaliation for a U.S. airplane which the United States and the evil forces supporting it claim to have been blown up by Libyan citizens over Scotland in 1988.

Anyone following the United States' greed for domination and its euphoria for unrivaled colonialism after having dwarfed and divided the Soviet Union, will realize that the world will witness many other cases of aggression, coercion, and oppression against innocent peoples and defenseless liberation movements. The United States is seeking to directly strike at these peoples and movements, or to convince its allies, the influential ones, and decisionmakers to persecute and harm them. This will enhance U.S. hegemony and colonial superiority in the international arena.

We call on the Arab, Islamic, and world nations that are targeted by the U.S. aggression to declare through statements and meetings their rejection of this domination and their denunciation of such premeditated aggression as the United States is preparing against other peoples. The last we could imagine or expect was a criminal and unjust aggression against an Arab country and a fraternal Muslim people, the Libyan people, for whom we wish prosperity and stability in their homeland away from all forms of foreign oppression and internal coercion so that they may stand proud and unified in the face of the conspiracy.

Numerous tyrant countries supported the United States against Iraq and may support it now against Libya. However, the day when peoples and states say a word of truth and support the oppressed against the oppressor and truth against falsehood will not be far away, God willing, once these peoples and states are liberated from allegiance and subservience to the United States and its haughtiness. And say, "When will that be?" Say, "Maybe it will be quite soon!" [Koranic verse]

U.S. Hostage To Be Released in 'Next Few Days'

NC2511164791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1639 GMT 25 NOv 91

[Text] Citing fundamentalist sources in Beirut, REUTER has reported that the Revolutionary Justice Organization will release U.S. hostage Joseph Cicippio in the next few days. These sources said that the release of the last five Western hostages is not linked to Israel's release of the Arabs detained by Israel. The same sources, however, expect Israel to release the Arab detainees within weeks.

Buwayz Announces Agreement To Attend Talks

NC2511174191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Lebanon has officially agreed to attend the bilateral negotiations in Washington on 4 December. This was announced at Bustrus Palace [Foreign Ministry] by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker. Minister Buwayz told correspondents:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister, have you informed the U.S. ambassador of Lebanon's agreement to attend the second round of the peace negotiations?

[Buwayz] The aim of the U.S. ambassador's visit to the Foreign Ministry was to receive Lebanon's reply to the resumption of negotiations and talks on the issue of bilateral meetings. We told the U.S. ambassador of Lebanon's agreement to participate in these talks in Washington on 4 December.

[Correspondent] Can you tell us if the head of the Lebanese delegation has been appointed?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese delegation has not been formed yet and this could happen in the next few days. The delegation might include a large number of those who attended the opening session of the conference.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, with regard to Jazzin, is there anything new on the situation there?

[Buwayz] We have told the United States very clearly that we are not willing to discuss Jazzin with Israel because we believe that Jazzin is only part of the problem. In addition to this, when we were in Madrid we told Secretary Baker that we do not wish to discuss this issue and that we insist on the need to hold the talks on the basis of two documents only: Resolution 425 and the truce agreement documents. Any talks will be based on these two. We have expressed a clear stand on the issue of the venue for the meeting. We said we hope that the meeting will be held in a place where there is sufficient international shelter and coverage, that we refuse to have the talks held in the Middle East, and that, on the contrary, we prefer to have the talks where the two superpowers can be for the sake of a stronger guarantee because we have doubts about Israeli intentions and we believe that the guarantee for this conference is the ability of the two superpowers, especially the United States, to exert pressure on Israel. Hence, Washington is an acceptable venue. We consider that the conditions we have already set down have been fulfilled and we therefore have no objection to resuming the talks there.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, is it true that you said at one of the cabinet sessions that Resolution 425 will be implemented within four months?

[Buwayz] I have said no such thing directly. All I said was I had heard from a number of the parties that attended the Madrid conference words to the effect that there are great chances of reaching understanding on implementing this resolution in the next few months and probably within four months. Therefore, these words were neither my direct analysis nor my own assessment. These words were said by a large number of participants and I only briefed the cabinet on it. [end recording]

Army Declares State of Alert in South

NC2511164391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1618 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] A state of tension and alert continues in Iqlim al-Tuffah after three Lebanese soldiers were killed and two others wounded this afternoon when a rocket hit their jeep while they were patrolling the region.

A military source in southern Lebanon said that a shell was fired from a position jointly manned by the Israeli Army and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] on Tallat Sujud in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The shell struck a jeep. The source added that the Lebanese Army immediately returned fire. However, security sources in the region said that the SLA artillery started shelling Iqlim al-Tuffah. The Lebanese Army declared a state of alert in its areas of deployment in the south, particularly in al-Nabatiyah.

Our security correspondent has learned that at around 1600 today, while a Lebanese Army unit was patrolling the Mlikh-al-Luwayzah area, a rocket was fired at it from positions manned by Israeli and SLA troops, killing three soldiers and injuring two others. The jeep was set ablaze.

Defense Ministry Statement

NC2611075591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Israeli aggression is continuing and expanding, not even sparing the UN or security forces in the villages adjacent to the border strip. Israeli aggression yesterday left three Lebanese Army soldiers dead and two others wounded in Iqlim al-Tuffah. [passage omitted]

The Defense Ministry's Information Department has issued the following statement: At 1600 yesterday, a rocket was fired from enemy positions on Sujud Hill at a Lebanese Army patrol moving on the al-Luwayzah-Mlikh road in Iqlim al-Tuffah, killing three

soldiers and seriously wounding two others. The Lebanese Army subsequently responded by directing concentrated and intensive artillery and tank gunfire at the enemy positions. The Army forces in the region were placed on a state of alert.

This incident comes within the framework of the repeated aggressions by the Israelis and their militia against units of the Lebanese Army entrusted with maintaining security in southern Lebanon. It demonstrates the enemy's and its agents' intention to escalate the situation to foil plans for Lebanese Army deployment in the south and hamper the implementation of UN Resolution 425.

Clashes also took place on 16 October between Army units in Mlikh and the South Lebanese Army forces stationed on the hills overlooking the village.

Israeli Aircraft Overfly Beirut 26 Nov

NC2611093391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut around 1040 today.

Israel resumed intensive artillery shelling of Iqlim al-Tuffah and western al-Biqa' at 0900 today. The damage caused by the shelling is still unknown.

Resistance Group Attacks Israeli Forces 26 Nov

NC2611100391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Report by Musa Harb, NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the central sector of southern Lebanon, on 26 November—recorded]

[Text] At 0900 today a resistance group detonated an explosive charge near an enemy mechanized force at the southern approach of Tallusah, striking an enemy armored vehicle and inflicting casualties among its passengers.

The enemy shelled the northern suburbs of Majdal Silm and Qabrikha and carried out a wide-scale combing operation using heavy-caliber machine guns.

About 10 minutes after the first explosion, a second resistance group detonated another charge, inflicting casualties on reinforcements brought to the site of the first operation. The number of casualties could not be determined because of the enemy's security cordon in the area.

The enemy continued to shell Qabrikha and Majdal Silm for one hour. The shelling hit a number of houses, but no casualties have been reported. Some 50 shells fell in and around the two villages.

Five 'Occupation Troops' Killed

NC2611105591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] While tension prevails in the south, the Islamic resistance carried out a dual operation this morning, killing five soldiers of the occupation troops.

In a statement today, the Islamic resistance said the Martyrs Bilal Salman and Muhammad al-Zayn Group detonated an explosive device along the road to Tallusah, killing two soldiers and wounding a number of others. When Israeli reinforcements arrived, the same group detonated a second device, which destroyed a vehicle and killed three soldiers.

The statement adds that the enemy immediately bombarded villages in the vicinity. The bombardment included Majdal Silm and Qabrikha. Israeli helicopters strafed Wadi al-Saluqi with machine guns. A number of homes were destroyed and fire broke out in others as a result of the bombardment. Over 40 shells fell in the region, according to reports.

Israeli warplanes flew over the south, the mountain, and the capital, breaking the sound barrier several times.

Junblatt on Al-Hirawi Remarks, Al-Ta'if Accord

NC1911170791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Commenting on President al-Hirawi's recent statement that ministers must accept majority decisions of the cabinet or resign, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has stated: His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi is talking to us from Paris about resignation and dismissal. We would like to know to whom this talk is addressed. If His Excellency President al-Hirawi thinks that through speeches from Paris or somewhere else he can rectify governmental or political imbalances, we remind him of similar speeches made by his predecessors Michel 'Awn and Amin al-Jumayyil. Al-Jumayyil wanted to shell Damascus from Washington. Nothing has changed. Junblatt added: Of course al-Hirawi today cannot shell Damascus, because of the Lebanese-Syrian treaty.

In a news conference held today in al-Mukhtarah, Junblatt noted that that certain institutions, such as the presidential guards or the military police, are tainted with political and sectarian colors. I wish I could stay home, but one fears to stay home when we see that the basic matters are not handled properly,he added. We accepted the al-Ta'if accord to end the war, bring peace, collect the weapons, and work toward eliminating political sectarianism, Junblatt remarked. Let no one be fooled, he added, al-Ta'if is not a charter—it is a phase. But even al-Ta'if is not handled properly. [passage omitted]

Junblatt referred to statements made by Defense Minister Michel al-Murr, saying: Let no one threaten us that there are arms and that the Army will be used to

maintain internal security. We tell Minister al-Murr that when there is a genuine political settlement, there will be no need for an opposition, Junblatt said.

Junblatt said Lebanese foreign policy is in harmony with Syria, but domestic policy aims to blow up al-Ta'if in practice and return to Maronite political domination. He noted that some people holding political and security positions belong to the Shihabi [reference to former President Fu'ad Shihab] era.

PSP Questions Government Independence Celebration

NC2211123291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Statement by Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) Secretariat—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] On 22 November Lebanon marks the 48th anniversary of its independence, but this occasion has not acquired a clear, sound, nationalist, pan-Arab essence as we are lacking a genuine democratic system based on justice and equality. No unionist military establishment has emerged that groups all Lebanese and is based on protecting the land and people and proceeds from the ultimate Arab doctrine of liberating the land from the Israeli enemy rather than discrimination, protecting a certain sect, and [word indistinct] justice among individuals and [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

We want, aspire to, and look for independence, but do not accept a distorted, forged independence that contradicts history. We want independence that completely expresses Lebanon's Arabism, not [word indistinct] any isolationist notion hostile to Arabism that awaits any opportunity to pounce on Lebanon's affiliation with pan-Arabism. [passage omitted]

The regime sees the 22 November anniversary as an occasion for a military parade, hollow celebrations, and speeches and statements full of talk about the past without any national, just program for the future; while the south, which sums up the cause of all of Lebanon in these crucial days, is exposed daily to shelling and destruction planned to create a refugee problem that will be added to that of the displaced people, allow Israel to steal water, undermine Resolution 425, and attempt to impose a bilateral agreement on Lebanon.

The regime forgets reality and ignores the serious crisis of living conditions, the economy, and social dangers that accumulate daily, beginning with the south and expanding to cover all of Lebanon. Instead of paying attention to these matters, the regime is interested in anniversaries, festive occasions, and lavish spending, as if all people's hopes have materialized and nothing is missing but decorations and ceremonies.

We join all nationalists and the Lebanese in general in warning against the consequences of pursuing this course of government. We consider genuine independence to embrace Arab nationalism on the basis of liberating the land from Israeli occupation and establishing a just democratic system proceeding from Lebanon's Arabism and integration with fraternal Syria, which is characterized by its pan-Arab stand that contributes to the nationalist Lebanese struggle. [passage omitted]

Al-Musawi, PSP Delegation Discuss South

NC2611104091 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Hizballah Secretary General His Eminence Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi received a delegation representing the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] yesterday afternoon. Also attending the meeting were the head of Hizballah's political bureau, a number of bureau officials, and officials in charge of executive departments. The delegation included PSP Secretary General Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad, media official Ghazi al-'Aridi, and educational official Fadi al-Dimashqi.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed various political issues concerning both parties, including the situation in the region with the growing U.S. hegemony, the situation in the south, the escalating Zionist attacks, the need to strengthen the resistance, and the internal situation.

Committees have been formed to follow up on various political, media, and educational issues.

Following the meeting, al-Musawi said the two sides succeeded in laying a real foundation for cooperation in all aspects of political, media, and educational issues. He said this cooperation will primarily contribute to strengthening the country vis-a-vis domestic and foreign challenges.

We were never surprised by the stand adopted by brother Walid Junblatt when he refused to involve Jazzin in a swap deal, al-Musawi said on the issue of the resistance. He said we would not accept Jazzin if the resistance is the target. We are not surprised by such stands because they are typical of the PSP and they are harmonious with our stand and that of all honorable people in this country. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Radio on Libya, Peace Plan Link

NC1911104091 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Commentary: May God Have Mercy on the Soul of the Nation's Imam]

[Excerpts] While the Cold War which existed until a few years ago revolved round which of the two superpowers would control nations' destinies, the scene is now set for Washington to get what it wants without a hot or cold war. The U.S. Administration is now vigorously pursuing what it could not previously achieve, before other countries and nations awaken; the Soviet Union excepted since it has regained its stability. [passage omitted]

So far Washington has benefited from Communism's collapse in the USSR and eastern Europe, securing strong support for international Zionism which views the new world order as a suitable tool to fulfill its dream of a greater state. This is why the U.S. Administration wants to close the dossier on powers opposed to it. James Baker tried to get China to halt arms exports to countries such as Iran and Syria. He tried to freeze the strong Japanese economy's effects on the U.S. economy, because other strong economies constitute a political power that might harm the White House's pharoanic plans.

The Bush administration has not forgotten to compel the Arab countries, threatened by penalty, to attend a reconciliation conference with the Zionist enemy under the banner of Middle East peace. Following the first stage of talks, Washington wants to rush to discuss the third before the second, particularly with Syria. The third stage is normalization and joint economic ventures between the Arab countries and Israel. This will end the usurping entity's isolation and open to it the doors of prosperity. [passage omitted]

Our talk leads us to the forces constituting real opposition to U.S. policy and fortifying the forces and states bordering Palestine. Among these is the Islamic Republic which, along with other countries demanding an Iranian role in Gulf security, has been attacked in the Egyptian regime's newspapers. In contrast to the countries directly concerned, these newspapers maintain that Iran has ambitions in the Gulf no less serious than Saddam's designs on Kuwait. These newspapers attack Iran not because it really has such ambitions but because it supports Syria, the intifadah, and the Islamic Resistance. They forget to mention Israel, which occupies Arab land. They praise Anwar al-Sadat for having exceptional genius ahead of the time and for making peace with the enemy at the expense of the nation's dignity and honor.

Israel, which knows that Islam and the Muslims are its relentless enemies, announced some time ago that three Iranian hypocrites, inimical to the Islamic Republic, sought political asylum in occupied Palestine. To one who has proper reasoning powers, this quest for asylum proves that an opponent of Islam must also support Zionism and Israel.

Tehran's stance on the proposed settlement with the enemy must be supported, because our enemy does not understand the peace language. This enemy is evil incarnate.

To implement the new world order as far as possible, Washington has found that it must intimidate the Arab Maghreb Muslims. The only way was to accuse al-Qadhdhafi of downing the U.S. plane over Scotland in 1989 [year as heard]. It pointed a finger at him to destroy Libya's strength and people, and with them Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria's Muslim people, because these people will one day foil U.S. policy in their countries, perhaps in all Africa. Although the Bush administration exonerated Syria and Iran, accused earlier of carrying out the operation, it asserted that the investigations will continue. According to U.S. justice, this means that any Syrian rejection of the peace settlement or any future political contingency might provoke the United State to accuse or implicate one of these countries or both. White House justice circle accusations are concocted according to the CIA's wishes. Fitzwater's remark that Syria remains on the list of terrorist countries is merely a precaution against such a contingency.

Accusing Libya of bombing the plane is also intended to exert pressure on revolutionary Palestinian forces to join the pro-'Arafat defeatists' wagon.

The United States is doing its utmost to control the world and subdue others. Islamists and revolutionaries are everywhere trying to wake up slumbering nations before the dragon devours them. May God have mercy on the soul of the late Imam of the nation, Seyyed Khomeyni, who described the United States as the great satan. It is the mother of evils, and the smooth snake tries to wrap its folds around everything. Israel is merely one of its poisonous fangs. Everyone must seek to extract it, just as the Shah of Iran, the other fang, was pulled out. When this is done, cutting off the snake's head will be easy.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Discuss Peace Process

JN2511192191 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a meeting at the al-Sha'b Palace. The meeting was attended by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. On the Egyptian side, it was attended by 'Amr Musa, foreign minister; Dr. Usmah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs; and Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, Egypt's ambassador to Damascus. The meeting was later attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a closed meeting at 1600 today. Discussions dealt with the situation and developments in the region and the progress of the Middle East peace process following the first phase of the peace conference held in Madrid. Talks also dealt the tasks awaiting the Arabs in the next phase. The two leaders emphasized the importance of coordination among Arab parties in order to continue the peace process in a manner that secures Arab rights, and the continuation of a peace process based on international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and in accordance with what was declared by the cosponsors of the conference in their invitation.

Discussions also dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation.

The talks were interrupted by a working luncheon. In addition to their excellencies the presidents, the luncheon was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Presidential Affairs Minister Wahib Fadil, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur, and the Egyptian delegation accompanying President Mubarak.

Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Damascus this evening following a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who bade him farewell at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

Damascus Agrees to Washington Talks 'In Principle'

JN2511092091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] In Damascus, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Amr has said that Syria conditionally accepts choosing Washington as a venue for holding the bilateral talks. In a statement to AFP, Yasir 'Amr said: We understood during our talks with Syrian officials that Syria agreed in principle on choosing Washington, but with conditions.

AFP was not able to obtain official Syrian confirmation of this initial acceptance.

General Talas Interviewed on Peace Process

JN2311174591 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 20 Nov 91 pp 1, 21

[By 'Ali Mansur]

[Text] Moscow—Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas has affirmed his country's determination to continue its efforts in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He said that Syria seeks to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region out of its commitment to a unified Arab stand to recover all the occupied Arab territory and achieve a just solution to the Palestine question. In a statement to AL-BAYAN, Gen. Talas said that Syria agreed on participating in the Madrid conference with open heart. He added that the Syrian negotiators did their best in Madrid and will continue to do so to achieve positive results on the path of achieving a just solution.

Gen. Talas affirmed that Syria is determined to continue its peaceful efforts to implement both UN Security Council resolutions. He said that Damascus believes that the success of the Madrid conference will be in its interest, holding Israel responsible for the failure. He noted that Israel has always failed to comply with international legitimacy and has denied Arab rights.

The Syrian defense minister completely ruled out the possibility of reaching a Syrian-Israeli agreement like Camp David. Gen. Talas said that Syria will not hold separate talks with Tel Aviv. He said that Syria could have reached such an agreement with Israel a long time ago if it had accepted Camp David. The Syrian minister affirmed his country's commitment to a unified Arab stand to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of recovering the Golan Heights and the usurped Arab territory, and achieving a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestine question.

Gen. Talas praised Soviet-Syrian relations, but at the same time, expressed his regret over the problems facing the USSR currently. He said: We hope that the USSR will overcome the present dilemma and restore its strategic role on the international level.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Refuses To Release Soviet Prisoners

BK2611110291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1024 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Nov 26 (AFP)—Hardline Afghan resistance leader Golboddin Hekmatyar announced here Tuesday that his party would not release Soviet prisoners of war until peace was restored in Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar, whose Hezb-e Eslami faction is believed to be holding several POWs, rejected the Moscow agreement reached between moderate mojahedin leaders and Soviet and Russian officials in talks on November 11-15.

The rebels had pledged at the talks to work to release POWs.

"We will not release the Soviet POWs and I will appeal to all mojahedin factions also not to free a single Soviet soldier until the war ends," the influential leader told a news conference here after meeting Moscow's ambassador.

Without giving details of his meeting with Ambassador Victor P. Yakunin, Hekmatyar reiterated that peace could be restored only if a government "acceptable" to the Afghan mojahedin replaced the Kabul regime headed by President Najibollah.

The Soviet Red Cross says that of some 300 soldiers reported missing in action during the 1979-89 Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan, some 50 were made captives by various mojahedin groups.

The delegation to Moscow was headed by Burhanuddin Rabbani. It assured Moscow that efforts would be made to release a first batch of POWs by January 1, 1992, when Moscow would stop supplies of military hardware and fuel for combat purposes to Kabul.

The Soviet leaders also accepted mojahedin demands for installing an Islamic interim government in Kabul which, in two years time, would hold elections to be supervised by the United Nations and Muslim countries.

The powerful guerrilla leader Hekmatyar who along with his two fundamentalist colleagues boycotted the rebels trip to Moscow, termed the agreement as insignificant.

Mojahedin cannot accept the unjust Soviet demand for a unilateral release. They will hold the POWs unless thousands of Afghan prisoners were freed from Kabul jails, he added.

He said unless the resistance's conditions were met, the Soviet POWs will remain in mojahedin custody and treated with respect and honor.

Hekmatyar charged that Iran and the United States had joined in the Soviet interference in Afghanistan. Soviet cargo planes continued to fly daily, bringing in arms and food supplies to support the Najibollah regime, he added.

He claimed that the United States was footing the bill for Soviet supplies to Kabul. Both Washington and Moscow want to impose former King Zaher Shah on the Afghan people, he said.

The former monarch, who was toppled in 1974, is living in exile in Rome. Hekamtyar's party blames Zaher Shah, 77, for paving the way for the communist takeover in Afghanistan.

Lashing out at Iran he said Tehran had recently intensified its interference in Afghan affairs.

Iran was either doing this directly or assisting Moscow, he said, referring to reports that Iranian planes had air-dropped assistance to drought-hit central Bamyan Province, which is dominated by the Shiite Hazara tribes.

Unfolding his own plan for the future set-up in Afghanistan, Hekmatyar said the interim government should not be in for more than six months.

The interim government should have no communist officials from the Kabul side, supporters of Zaher Shah or mojahedin leaders, he said.

Mojahedin leaders who like politics should seek a public mandate through elections, he said.

He also said he may join the next round of Soviet-mojahedin talks "if our conditions were met."

Rabbani Monday named the resistance side for a joint Soviet-mojahedin commission which would have a permanent office in this Pakistani border city to oversee implementation of the eight-point Moscow plan.

Resistance sources said seats were kept vacant for hardliners whom Rabbani invited again to join the second round expected next month.

Rebels Select Team for Soviet-Mojahedin Body

BK2611003091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1711 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 25 (AFP)—Afghan rebel leaders selected Monday their side for a joint Soviet-mojahedin commission aimed at implementing this month's Moscow agreement on the transfer of power to an Islamic interim government in Kabul.

The pro-resistance MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency said leaders of the Afghan delegation who participated in the November 11-15 talks with several senior Soviet and Russian leaders in Moscow also decided to set up the commission's permanent office in northwestern Peshawar, Pakistan, bordering Afghanistan.

The meeting, chaired by Burhanuddin Rabbani, who headed the predominantly moderate guerrilla leaders' team in Moscow, has finalised its list, MIDIA said without giving names or their number.

It was unclear if the Soviet side will be represented by its diplomats here or a team from Moscow.

At least three fundamentalist leaders—Golboddin Hekmatyar, Rasul Sayyaf and Yunes Khales—hold the Soviet Union responsible for the devastation caused by the 13-year-old civil war in Afghanistan.

Wanting the military defeat of the pro-Moscow President Najibollah, they boycotted the Moscow parleys.

MIDIA said Rabbani, keeping some seats vacant, has again asked the trio to send their representatives to the joint body which was envisaged in the Moscow agreement.

The commission will take follow-up measures to implement an eight-point agreement which calls for transfer of "entire power" to a transitional Islamic government in Afghanistan which would hold elections in two years.

The body will also implement an understanding reached in Moscow on releasing Soviet soldiers captured by guerrillas during the 1979-89 tribal insurgency against the Red Army's occupation of Afghanistan.

More than 300 soldiers were listed missing in action and the Soviet Red Cross estimated that some 50 were in mojahedin custody.

Moscow, which expressed its condemnation of the 1979 invasion, has also agreed to halt supplies of military hardware and fuel for combat purposes to the Kabul government before January 1, 1992.

In return, the delegation agreed to secure the release of the first batch of an unspecified number of Soviet prisoners of war by that time.

Mojahedin Protest Airspace Violation by Iran

BK2611103991 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 25 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Peshawar—The Commanders' Council of Afghan Mojahedin in Kabul Province has strongly protested against the violation of Afghan airspace by Iranian planes and helicopters during the past three days.

A wireless statement, issued to AL-BUNYAN News Service on Sunday by a representative of the Commanders Council, said:

"The Iranian authorities have carried out a massive air dropping operation in Bamyan Province in Central Afghanistan during the past three days."

"This large-scale violation of Afghan airspace, in the garb of so-called food deliveries to the Shia population of Afghanistan in the Hazarajat region, is an open act of aggression against Afghan sovereignty and independence. This is not any friendly act, but is a sheer act of political and military adventurism on the part of the Iranian Government which has her own ambitions against the Afghans."

"We wish to protest to the United Nations, OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] and other international forums, against such a naked Iranian interference in Afghanistan."

"This is purely politically motivated act which should be discarded forthwith."

"If the Iranians are really sincere in their claims of helping the starving population of Hazarajat, there are many other legal channel through which aid could be delivered to the needy people in Hazarajat."

"The criminal silence and utter helplessness of Kabul regime which has secretly sanctioned the Iranian operation with the active blessing of the Russians, speaks volumes about its true puppet nature."

"If the Iranians are permitted to go off with this unauthorised act, it will have far-reaching repercussions on the future stability of our country."

Ministry Condemns Pakistan's 'Open Interference'

LD2511230991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry this morning and was handed a strong protest note from the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning blatant interference by Pakistan in internal Afghan affairs by the director of the ministry's First Political Department.

As evidence and information confirm, Pakistani military circles are intent on continuing open interference and aggression against the Muslim people of the Republic of Afghanistan and against its national sovereignty. They send people to engage in destruction and continue to wage war and cause bloodshed in the Republic of Afghanistan.

A Pakistani citizen, Asef Ali Mirza, son of Ashraf Ali Mirza; a resident of Lahore, and a police officer in Pakistan's Punjab Province, illegally entered the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan among the ranks of the extremist groups. Evidence shows that he was captured by the security forces of the Republic of Afghanistan while carrying a machine gun in Qandahar Province while encouraging war and bloodshed and carrying out terrorist and bandit actions.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protests against such an aggressive violation of the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan by the Pakistani militarists. This is indicative of the hypocritical policy of the Government of Pakistan, and it contravenes the UN Charter and all accepted international relations and principles, most of all the provisions of the Geneva accords. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan demands that the Pakistani authorities refrain from such interference in the future.

Khaleqyar Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD2611025191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The prime ministry's press office reports: Presided over by Afghan Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, a general session of the Council of Ministers was held this morning at the prime ministry building. After discussing and assessing the political and economic situation of the country, it approved a number of legal documents and made some decisions.

The Council of Ministers issued a resolution on the upkeep of residential schemes in Shahrara and in Sra Mena to help homeless compatriots and families of the martyrs, and it considered positively the report by the Afghan delegation on its participation in the UNESCO conference.

At the beginning of the session esteemed Khaleqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, explained the political and economic situation of the country and noted the increasing interest of Afghans inside the country and abroad in ensuring peace and the condemnation of war in keeping with the five-point plan of the UN secretary general for reaching a lasting peace, which entails the general interests of the country.

In another section of his speech the esteemed prime minister made remarks concerning the openness of roads and on the increase in the return of refugees to the homeland.

Informing government members of the relative improvement in the nation's economic situation, esteemed Khleqyar said: Recently the distribution of flour to ration coupon holders has been increased, and it is hoped that it will be raised in the coming few days to determine norms which will fully meet needs. Describing as normal the distribution of tea, ghee, soap, and sugar to coupon holders, the esteemed prime minister added that the Ministry of Commerce had been instructed to procure more sugar and ghee and make them ready for distribution. Pronouncing the situation of the stable reserves of the state as satisfactory, the esteemed prime minister added: In line with the plan, the purchase of 90,000 tonnes of surplus wheat from our country's farmers is nearly completed, and so far 14,000 tonnes of wheat have been transported to the capital from the northern provinces. There are 3,000 tonnes of wheat ready in Konduz, and another 800 tonnes are in Hayratan to be transported.

Esteemed Khaleqyar made some remarks on the distribution of coal to the residents of Kabul and said: So far coal has been sold to 52,580 families, an increase of 25 percent compared to last year. The distribution of coal continues as planned. The distribution of oil products also goes on. A number of measures have been envisaged for the distribution of more oil products. State and private sector work continues on the signing of protocols for importing oil from abroad, among them the Republic of Turkmenistan. On top of this, a quantity of firewood, coal, and oil products has been imported by Afghan enterpreneurs and has been offered for sale. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

PRC Military Delegation Meets Prime Minister

BK2311161591 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] The visiting Chinese military delegation called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in Dhaka today. The leader of the delegation, Lieutenant General Qizong, conveyed to the prime minister the greetings of Chinese president and prime minister. Begum Khaleda Zia said the relations between Bangladesh and China are very (?safe) and will be strengthened further. She recalled the Chinese assistance in the construction of two bridges in Bangladesh and their assistance during the last cyclone.

The five-member Chinese military delegation earlier called on the chief of Army staff, Lieutenant General Mohammad Nooruddin Khan, at the Army headquarters and discussed matters of mutual interest.

The delegation also called on the chief of naval staff, Rear Admiral Mohaiminul Islam, and Defense Secretary Anisur Rahman.

Holds Talks With President

BK2511160991 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] The visiting Chinese military delegation called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Banga Bhavan [President House] today.

The leader of the delegation said the traditional bonds of friendship and close neighborliness between China and Bangladesh would continue for the benefit of the two people. He also stressed for frequent exchange of visits of delegations between the two countries. President Biswas conveyed his best wishes to his Chinese counterpart and expressed the hope that friendship between the two countries will be further strengthened.

Commentary Welcomes Visit

BK2511085791 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The current visit by the Chinese military delegation led by Lieutenant General Qizong, deputy chief of general staff of People's Liberation Army, is to be considered as another welcome development for further consolidation of Sino-Bangladesh friendship. In the context of close bilateral relations between the two countries, this will certainly lead to strengthening further the cooperative spirit for promotion of mutual understanding and collaboration.

The visiting Chinese military delegation called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday. Lieutenant General Qizong, as the leader of the delegation, conveyed to the prime minister greetings of the Chinese president and prime

minister. With deep understanding at the highest political level between the two countries, the bilateral relations are certain to grow stronger through mutual visits and contacts at various levels. Prime Minister Begum Zia has recalled in this connection the bonds of friendship between the two countries. The bonds, as noted by the prime minister, are indeed very deep. China has been a time-tested friend of Bangladesh and has always extended cooperation and support to our cause. We on our part have always valued China's friendship and our relations with China bear a special meaning for us.

Sino-Bangladesh friendship and understanding have expanded over the years in diverse fields of cooperation. The bilateral relations have the basic strength in shared perceptions and similar approach to international and regional issues. The diversified areas of bilateral cooperation cover trade and economic relations, technology and scientific collaboration, common stand at international fora, and mutual support in times of natural calamities. One would like to note here that as developing countries, both China and Bangladesh have much in common. In the task of economic modernization, social development, and technological skill upgradation, the two countries can share their experiences. It is now moving ahead steadily on the path of sustained growth.

We in Bangladesh can draw from the Chinese experiences to address our development problems now in the changed context of [word indistinct] for balanced development. It is heartening to note here that China has reiterated solidarity with our causes and efforts. The bilateral relations have indeed received a new boost following Prime Minister Begum Zia's visit to Beijing early this year. Trade and economic cooperation links have been thus reinforced in the wake of the last meeting of the ministrial level joint economic commission between the two countries.

In the changed context of global economic environment, we look forward to increased investment by the Chinese investors, both public and private. We are quite confident that effective follow-up actions on earlier decisions about joint ventures between the two countries can pave the way for greater economic linkages for mutual benefit and advantages. The success of such efforts would obviously rest on how the two sides could pool their resources and ensure their effective utilization. With good will and understanding prevailing on both sides to harness in full the potential for mutual cooperation, the prospects for diversification of bilateral relations remain, thus, quite promising.

Four Left-Wing Parties Form New Political Front

BK1911164291 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] A new political front comprising four left-wing political parties was floated in Dhaka today to unite what they termed world patriotic and democratic forces for carrying forward the people's hopes and aspirations. The National Awami Party, NAP; Bangladesh Communist Party, CPB; Gona Azadi League, and Shramwadi Dal jointly launched the front under the title Patriotic Democratic Front, PDF.

India

PRC Premier To Begin Visit 11 Dec

BK2511153691 Delhi All India Radio Network in Hindi 1520 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] PRC Premier Li Peng will make a six-day official visit to India beginning 11 December. He will be accompanied by his wife, Madam (Xulin).

A foreign office spokesman said in New Delhi that India attaches special importance to Li Peng's visit to India and believes that the visit will prove useful in strengthening bilateral relations.

Li Peng will be the first Chinese premier to visit India in the last 31 years. Chou Enlai had earlier visited India in April 1960. Both sides will exchange views on bilateral and regional issues as well as issues concerning India and China.

Our correspondent reports that Sino-Indian relations have been improving since December 1988, when former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited China. High-level discussions and bilateral cooperation have increased since then.

Spokesman Previews Visit

BK2611113491 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0934 GMT 26 Nov 91

["Spokesman's Responses to Questions Regarding Visit of the Chinese Premier, His Excellency Mr Li Peng, 25/11/91"]

[Text] In response to questions, the spokesman made the following points:

We have a joint group on economic relations, trade and science and technology. This is at the level of the commerce minister. It has met twice—once in September 1989 in Delhi and once in Beijing in February 91. In response to a question as to whether some discussions will be held on the issue of regional disarmament, the spokesman said that this could well be one of the items for discussions as all regional and international issues of mutual interest are likely to come up.

In response to a question as to whether the border issue will be discussed, the spokesman said that all bilateral issues will be discussed. There is every likelihood of this issue being taken up. He clarified that the joint working group was set up as a result of late former Prime Minister Sri Rajiv Gandhi's visit in 1988 to China, with the specific purpose of dealing with this question. The joint working group (JWG) is headed by foreign secretary in our case and the vice minister in the case of China. They have had three meetings so far, the last one was in May

1991 when foreign secretary went to Beijing. The first one was when the foreign secretary, Sri S.K. Singh went there in July 1989; the second in August, in Delhi, when their vice minister was here. In response to another question, the spokesman said that all discussions and developments in our bilateral relations may come up for review at the level of the prime ministers.

In response to a question on the opening of a mission in Shanghai, the spokesman said that there is a possibility; the matter has been under discussion for some time now.

In response to a question on the five nations meeting in connection with the Pakistan prime minister's proposal on NWFZ [nuclear-weapon-free zone], the spokesman said that everything which is of regional importance, including the NWFZ, could well come up. In response to another question as to whether the talks will be a 'charade' with no substance, the spokesman said that we are approaching the talks with utter seriousness and with a great deal of preparation: It would be appreciated that a Chinese prime minister is coming here after 31 years. It is a historic visit and will be given the seriousness which it deserves.

In response to a question on the intellectual property rights (IPR), the spokesman said that all matters which concern us, including IPR, which concerns all developing countries, may well come up, especially if the foreign trade minister is coming.

In response to a question on the volume of trade between the two countries, the spokesman said that it is 280 million dollars both ways—105 million dollars from our side by way of exports; the balance is in their favour.

Commentary Applauds Visit

BK2611095091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Commentary by journalist Sunil Ray]

[Text] The Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng's, six-day visit to India from December the 11th is a significant development in relations between the two countries. India attaches importance to the forthcoming visit and believes it will be a milestone in relations with China. Mr. Chou Enlai was the last Chinese premier to visit India in April 1960. The visit of Mr. Li is in response to an invitation extended to him by the late prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, during his visit to China in December 1988. In fact, Mr. Li's visit was postponed by a year because of India's internal changes.

India has already conveyed to China its desire to seek further improvement in relations and to strengthen and deepen mutual cooperation. New Delhi believes that Mr. Li's visit will be an important step in this direction. The joint group on economic relations and science and technology will also meet during Mr. Li's stay in Delhi. The last meeting of the group took place in Beijing in February this year when the then external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, paid an official visit to China.

Crucial to India-China relations is the border issue. After eight rounds of official-level talks since December 1981, the border dispute was referred to a joint working group in 1989. The idea behind this was to raise the level of negotiations. So far the group has had three rounds of meetings. The last was held in May this year.

The two prime ministers are expected to discuss a wide range of topics covering bilateral, regional, and international issues. More recently, not only has the region but also the rest of the world witnessed significant changes. Both leaders will have an opportunity to share each other's perception. The inclusion of the foreign trade minister in Mr. Li'e entourage implies that a serious attempt will be made by both countries to increase the trade turnover. Despite efforts in the past, the trade volume has not picked up. The latest figures show that the two-way trade is as little as $280 million. Surely the situation calls for an energetic effort to reflect improved relations between the two countries.

Reopening of border trade and consulates at Bombay and Shanghai was agreed to in principle during Mr. Shukla's visit to China. It is expected that these two issues would also receive fresh appraisal during Mr. Li's visit.

Editorial Views Soviet UN Vote Against India

BK2211155391 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Nov 91 p 13

[Editorial: "Moscow's New Posture"]

[Text] Soviet support for a resolution sponsored jointly by Pakistan and Bangladesh and calling for a nuclear-free zone in South Asia clearly denotes a change in Moscow's perception, but the apparent policy shift should not come as a surprise to New Delhi. It is possible Moscow had informed New Delhi ahead of the vote on the resolution at the United Nations Political and Security Committee that it would support the proposal. The previous Soviet position of not supporting resolutions of this kind have been found wanting by Moscow which is perhaps taking another look at its position on the issue as also on relations with India. Whatever the reasons, it is clear that Soviet and Indian perceptions of the nuclear threat do not converge except on the ultimate objective of total elimination of nuclear weapons in the world. The Indian spokesman at the UN did the right thing to point out that the global reach of nuclear weapons and their deployment diminished the importance of regional nuclear weapon-free zones. Thus, the Pakistan-Bangladesh resolution serves no purpose except to present the Bush Administration with an excuse to try and resume military and economic aid to Islamabad which was suspended in October last year when Mr George Bush failed to certify to the Congress that Pakistan does not have a nuclear bomb, nor a weapons programme.

Whatever benefit Pakistan may derive from the adoption of the resolution, the shift in Soviet policy should

enable New Delhi to weight the new factors that will influence the restructuring of Indo-Soviet relations. India should consider that the Kremlin in future will increasingly respond to dissenting opinions on Moscow's foreign policy both at the Surpeme Soviet and republic levels. Also till such time as the Soviet Union has settled down to a new equilibrium, a certain ambivalence is likely to mark Indo-Soviet exchanges. The trade protocol between the two countries will no longer be the same as in the past. Nor will the other areas of extensive cooperation between the two countries. External Affairs Minister Madhav Singh Solanki can use his visit to Moscow to probe the Soviet mind on policy changes it may be contemplating. The recent renewal of the Indo-Soviet treaty is a pointer to the abiding nature of Indo-Soviet ties. Changes and adjustments in the context of the collapse of the socialist system are certain to introduce new dimensions to these relations. They may look somewhat different but need not, because of that reason, become weaker.

Commentary Criticizes Pakistani Nuclear-Free Plan

BK2011123791 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Commentary by Ajay K. Roy, special correspondent of the NATIONAL HERALD: "Pakistan-Bangladesh Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Proposal"]

[Text] Pakistan after many abortive bids got its oft-repeated proposal for making South Asia a nuclear-weapon-free zone—NWFZ—which is totally unrelated to geopolitical realities of the region—passed by the Political and Security Committee of the UN General Assembly. The committee voted the draft cosponsored by Bangladesh by 104 to three. To India's chagrin, the Soviet Union, along with Ukraine and Belorussia, were among the supporters. The resolution will shortly be taken up by the General Assembly where the lineup should not be any different from that in the committee.

Sensing India's displeasure at Soviet support for the Pakistan proposal, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev has assured the Indian foreign minister, Mr. Madhav Singh Solanki, of his government's continued commitment to friendly ties with India. Notwithstanding such assurance, India has quite justifiably stuck to its principled stand.

The Pakistani draft does not fulfill the basic requirement of a consensus on the issue of NFWZ on the basis of prior consultations. These arrangements arise out of the shared perceptions of the states of the region regarding special features and geography and extent of regulations and consultations. The NFWZ's have been established in other parts of the world as a result of arrangements freely arrived at and agreed to by the countries of the region. India was thus in favor of global consensus for these zones. More so, India's position is based on principles that determine disarmament policy. Nuclear disarmament is a global issue and general and complete disarmament cannot be achieved by partial measures. The global reach of nuclear weapons and their deployment diminish the importance of regional nuclear NWFZ's.

As stated in the draft, the NWFZ proposal addresses Pakistan's strategic concerns, ignoring India's security calculations. The most important of this is China's membership of the nuclear club. Pakistan's own nuclear ambition is an equally crucial consideration from India's point of view. It may be recalled here that the U.S. Administration in October last had suspended economic and military aid to Islamabad when Mr. George Bush failed to certify to the Congress that Pakistan does not have a nuclear bomb nor a weapons program.

China's recent decision to join the Nonproliferation Treaty—NPT—is designed to provide camouflage to continue past policies through duplicity. The treaty imposes no restrictions on signatories which exploded a nuclear device before 1967. So, by agreeing to adhere to the NPT, China believes it has a license to go on with its 10-year program of doubling its nuclear armory, (?way) larger than the combined British and French arsenals. It has failed to respond to the recent unilateral U.S. and Soviet arms control initiatives, especially the plans to withdraw or eliminate all ground- and sea-launched tactical nuclear weapons.

Some of China's actions are undercutting the very basic goal of the treaty. After providing Pakistan with weapon designs and missile technology to deliver nuclear arms, China is now fueling the nuclear ambitions of Iran. The clandestine Chinese assistance to Iran includes the transfer of enriched uranium and equipment to process fissile material. The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committe was told 17 October that it is pretty well established that Pakistan's nuclear program has been built using Chinese designs.

These strategic concerns apart, the Soviet acquiescence at the UN denotes a change in its perceptions, and the apparent policy shift should enable New Delhi to waive the new factors that will influence the recasting of Indo-Soviet relations. India should consider that the Kremlin in future will increasingly respond to dissenting views on Moscow's foreign policy, both at the Supreme Soviet and republic levels. Also till such time as the Soviet Union has settled down to new equilibrium, a certain ambivalence or lack of dynamism is likely to mark the bilateral exchanges. The trade protocol between the two countries will no longer be the same as in the past. To begin with, the trade protocol for 1992 may be signed with Russia rather than the Soviet Union, the reason being that the old Soviet Union has formally given way to a new union of only 12 republics, many of whom are still squabbling about the extent of autonomy they should get. Russia accounts for the bulk of sales to and purchases from India and so an Indo-Russian deal will by itself keep the core of Indo-Soviet trade intact till further arrangements are made. Not only the ties with the Soviet Union are poised for a review, but also the gamut of foreign policy.

The UN General Assembly's overwhelming support to the concept of NWFZ is a stunning reminder that India must swiftly redefine its nuclear diplomacy. India should be prepared for increased pressure on the nuclear proliferation issue. The U.S. wanted India to accept the safeguards by signing the NPT and commended the Pakistani proposal for five-nation talks for establishing an NWFZ in South Asia. This was one of the main points made by Mr. James Baker at his recent meeting with the Indian external affairs minister. The significance of the new determinance of international relations has not been lost to the Indian policymakers, and a new regime more relevant to the current times is on the anvil.

Militants Release Kidnapped Romanian Diplomat

BK2611093291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The Romanian diplomat, Mr. Liviu Radu, who was kidnapped 48 days back, returned to his New Delhi residence safely at about 1100 this morning. A cheerful-looking Mr. Radu, appearing before pressmen, he said he reached the New Delhi railway station at about 1000 by train somewhere from Punjab. Mr. Radu said during his captivity he was kept in a village house somewhere near Jullundur. He said he was treated well during his stay with the militants.

Giving the sequence of events after his kidnapping, Mr. Radu said first he was kept in a New Delhi residence and then he was taken at a place in Punjab on the 27th of October by road. Mr. Radu said he was provided daily newspapers and he could know the developments only from the press. He said his vehicle was obstructed near the main road soon after he left his residence on the fateful day and six militants forced him into a Gypsy [Indian van] and he was taken to an unknown place. Mr. Radu said he boarded the train last night around 2300 at a small station which he could not identify because of darkness.

Three militants were with him when he boarded the train, he said. He traveled on a second-class compartment. Asked whether the militants told him about any ransom for his release, he said they did not. To another question, Mr. Radu said he will immediately go on leave for some rest and then decide whether he will continue in New Delhi.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, told the Rajya Sabha that the government has not released any militant in exchange and the Romanian diplomat has been set free by the kidnappers on their own. He said there is nothing under the carpet. The Rajya Sabha members sought an assurance from the government that action will be taken to ensure that such kidnappings do not take place in future. The minister also made a similar statement in the Lok Sabha and said that he will give the members more details about the release of Mr. Radu later.

Iran

UN Envoy Calls for Palestinian Rights

LD2611094291 Tehran IRNA in English 0831 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] New York, Nov. 26, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the problem of Palestine must be tackled through realization of justice in its fullest and broadest sense including the right of the Palestinian nation to self-determination, said Iran's U.N. envoy Kamal Kharrazi here Monday.

Addressing the U.N. General Assembly session, debating the Palestinian issue since last Thursday, Kharrazi said "The Palestinian people expect the international community to consider the occupation of their land in a similar fashion as it has other cases of occupation and to avoid application of a double standard in their case."

He regretted that the Zionist regime's response to numerous United Nations documents condemning the illegal activities of Israel, has been the continuation of aggression in all its dimensions—harassment and physical ill-treatment, collective punishment and expulsion of Palestinians, plundering, house demolishing and establishing of the so-called new settlements.

The Iranian envoy further noted that according to the latest report of the special committee to investigate Israeli practices which provides the list of Palestinians killed by the Zionists, the human rights situation in the occupied territories has been further deteriorated in the course of recent months.

Kharrazi described intifadah as "the history of a nation uprising with bare hands against a most brutal enemy armed with ruthlessness and sophisticated weapons," adding that the creation of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories is "in contravention of all international rules and norms."

He further quoted the latest report of the committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people as estimating that "between the beginning of the intifadah and 31 July 1991, a total of 504,120 'dunums' of land had been confiscated by the Israeli authorities" and "over 230,000 Israeli settlers were reported to reside in some 170 settlements, rural and urban, in the occupied Palestinian territory, including expanded East Jerusalem."

He set assured [as received] that the Zionist regime "is not seeking a just solution to the Palestine problem," and that "the position taken by its leaders before, during, and after the Madrid conference clearly exposed that the policy pursued by the Zionists was only to improve their position and create disunity among the other participants."

"How could a conference find a well-deserved and just solution to this problem under circumstances in which the torture of innocent people of Palestine, the establishment of new settlements and aggression against Islamic

countries, especially daily attacks against Lebanon, are continuing unabated?" asked Kharrazi.

Reiterating Iran's support for the aspiration of the Muslim people of Palestine, the Iranian U.N. envoy stressed, "the question of Palestine and the fate of Al-Quds [Jerusalem] are of utmost importance, deep in the hearts and minds of all Muslims around the globe, and in order that this sensitive question be properly addressed, their concern must be fully taken into account."

Official Urges UN Supervision of Afghan Refugees

LD2511144391 Tehran IRNA in English 1033 GMT 25 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA—A senior Iranian official here Sunday called on the United Nations to supervise over the influx of a great number of the Afghan refugees towards the Iranian borders.

Deputy Interior Minister Ahmad Hoseyni made the appeal in a meeting with Deputy Director of the Regional Bureau for Southwest Asia, North Africa and the Middle East of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) J.M. Fakhuri.

During the meeting, Hoseyni said that arrival of additional groups of Afghan refugees in Iran while the political situation in Afghanistan was getting back to normal, was unexpected.

He announced Iran's readiness to cooperate with the UNHCR in refugees-related matters.

Meanwhile, Fakhuri reiterated the need for opening a UNHCR office in Mashhad, capital of the northeast border province of Khorasan.

He also expressed hope that his mission in Iran will be productive in coping with the issues related to the influx of new Afghan refugees.

Iran is the host to more than two million Afghan refugees.

New Secretary General Urged To Enhance UN Role

LD2311170891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1028 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Excerpts] The 3,007th session of the [UN] Security Council was held on Friday and it chose the organization's secretary general. Mr. Butrus Ghali succeeded in being selected from among the other candidates with 11 votes for and 3 abstentions. [passage omitted]

This choice has been considered noteworthy by the world political circles since it carried the unanimous agreement of the Security Council's permanent members and thus preempts later disagreements and quarrels. Butrus Ghali, said to be fluent in three extant world languages: French, English, and Arabic, is the first UN secretary general [UNSG] from the African continent. [passage omitted]

The UN efforts to find that organization's future secretary general have come at a time when completely new conditions prevail in the world. The communist ideology has lost forever its crucial role in determining the political and economic guidelines of the Eastern Bloc and the Soviet Union is faced with far-reaching developments. The cold war has practically ended and a new phase in detente and cooperation between powers, on the basis of their mutual interests has commenced. In such a situation, the UNSG will have grave duties and responsibilities to discharge. If he receives the post [as heard], Mr. Butrus Ghali will replace someone who, during 10 years of service as the UNSG, has established a relatively positive and successful performance.

Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar is the fifth UNSG, and has held the post since 1981. During this period, the United Nations has managed gradually to end its long inactivity in discharging its responsibilities and take on a greater role in resolving world problems. During the past decade, the United Nations faced particular problems in maintaining world peace and security. [passage omitted] Of course some of those issues, including problems arising from Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, as well as the existing tension in the crucial Middle East region, or problems such as economic poverty and the increase in the gap which has put the North and South countries in real danger, have not been resolved yet and a future UNSG must endeavor, by considering the principles and objectives of the UN Charter and establishing real justice, to enhance the role of this organization in securing world peace and security and further improve the miserable state of the third world nations.

Velayati Returns From Austria, Views Talks

LD2311224591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Nov 91

[Text] An agreement was signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and Austria, on the construction of a major tunnel by the Karun River's dam number four. Foreign Minister Velayati, who returned to Tehran after a three-day visit to Austria on Saturday night, announced this news in an interview with our correspondent, and he added that during his talks with the Austrian officials he covered the most important international and regional issues, in particular the expansion of ties between the two countries.

The foreign minister pointed out that in the past seven months the volume of trade between the IRI and Austria reached $500 million, which is indicative of the growing relations between the two countries. Mr. Velayati added: The issue of participation of the Austrian Government and companies in the construction of the metro [in Tehran], and also the transfer of technology and the implementation of joint projects were among the issues discussed between the

two countries' officials, on which some agreements were reached. He said: In the course of the visit, bearing in mind that Austria is not a permanent member of the UN Security Council, issues related to the Persian Gulf region, the Middle East—such as Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, and the internal situation in Iraq—as well as Yugoslav affairs, European unity, and Austria's membership in the Common Market, were discussed.

Tehran Seeks Muslim Soviet Republic Consulates

NC2611113291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Consulates of the Islamic Republic of Iran are to be set up in the Muslim-inhabited Soviet republics. In a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze described the expansion of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet republics as a positive element in Tehran-Moscow relations and called on our foreign minister to set up consulates in these republics.

The total population of the six Muslim-inhabited Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan is almost one-fifth of the entire Soviet population.

Meshkini Urges Lower Leadership Living Standards

LD2311232791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1438 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Friday sermons by Qom Friday Imam Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini in Qom on 22 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] Do not sin! The least you can do is to shun sin. Perform your duty! That was the message of 'Ali Ibn-Abi-Talib. I hope that the leaders of our country, especially those who hold office, who have a position, pay some attention to the [simple] house of 'Ali Ibn-Abi-Talib and study his life. And if it is not too bold for me to do so, I would like to recommend the following: It must be approved by the Majlis, a command must be issued by our eminent leader saying: Those who hold sensitive state office must have a lower standard of life than other people, so that people who are sincere take up those posts. [Crowd shouts approval]

If people know that when they become ministers, deputies, heads of branches of government, power-holders, they must come down so far that they are either on a par with the masses or even lower than them; if they know that; if a person knows that he or she must live that way, then, deputies and other people will not be so greedy for office; then, only those who want to serve for the sake of God will enter [office]. It is hoped that, God willing, our country will become an Islamic country. We pray that God will make this an 'Alavi country [follower of 'Ali]. [passage omitted]

[Beginning second sermon] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] Another point I want to raise is the discussions that have recently taken place among writers, speakers, and those who speak from public platforms, who hold pens in their hands, who hold office: Among them discussions arise which smack of disputes, which cause disputes, which contain divisive subjects. Such discussions have arisen inside our country recently.

I am very surprised and I call, with full sincerity, on everyone who writes, who holds office, who can do something—I call on everyone not to lose the Imam's path; not to lose the line of the Imam of the ummah, may he be admitted to paradise. Recognize the value of the revolution! Do not allow the revolution to deviate from its path! Do not speak against the revolution! Do not wield your pen to the detriment of the eminent leader! Do not cause misfortune for the country! Adhere to the line of the Imam and to Islam within your ranks!

You must adhere to those things today; otherwise, if you create disturbances within your ranks, the enemy will be victorious over you. That is what Islam has stipulated. And at such a time! Gentlemen, today, the world is against you. Your enemies are attacking from every side; big and small enemies, using every kind of attack. [passage omitted] Amazing cultural attacks! Amazing propaganda attacks! They speak amazing nonsense; they have such a great power for spinning lies.

In such a situaton, it [unspecified enemy] will attack Libya tomorrow with some excuse. It will attack another place with another excuse the next day. It has come and taken Kuwait and settled down there. It is holding Iraq under its thumb. It is strengthening Israel. With all its attacks, is it appropriate, by God, for us to wield our pens inside our country against ourselves? To mobilize our strength against ourselves? To fight among ourselves? By God, it is ignorance to do such a thing.

As a brother, sincerely, by way of advice as a Qom scholar and as your brother, I ask you please to tread the correct path; not to create divisions; to get along with one another; to unite; to obey the eminent leader. And I hope that, God willing, in the light of obedience, you will be victorious. [passage omitted]